■ Business / B1
Peso, stocks recover on fresh hopes of resolving GMA crisis

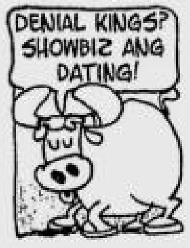
■ Metro / A23
Manila public school teachers go on mass leave, ask for salary hike

■ News / A8
Military will stay neutral, says AFP chief of staff

■ World / A9
Britain suspects al-Qaida behind explosions

■ News / A2
First case of bird flu detected in RP

Drilon, Villar jockeying for VP post this early


DENIAL KINGS? SHOWBIZ ANG DATING!

By Juliet L. Javellana

WHILE Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Manuel Villar both disclaim seeking the vice presidency, their respective supporters are fever-

DRILON/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

US diplomat calls resigned Cabinet officials patriots

By Nikko Dizon

THE TOP US diplomat in the Philippines yesterday avoided any declaration of support for President Macapagal-Arroyo, and called "patriots" the key economic ministers who resigned from her Cabinet.

But US Embassy charge d'affaires Joseph

US DIPLOMAT/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, July 9, 2005 ★★ 62 pages. / 7 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 211 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Cory to GMA: Time to quit

Ten key officials withdraw support

By Volt Contreras, Christine O. Avendaño, Ronnel W. Domingo and Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's weakening support base was deeply eroded yesterday, with former President Corazon Aquino, 10 members of her Cabinet, and the Makati Business Club calling on her to step down.

Dressed in her signature yellow, Aquino read from a prepared statement seeking Ms Arroyo's "voluntary resignation for a smooth transition to her constitutional successor, the Vice President, and a swift return to normalcy for the country."

She told reporters she conveyed this message to Ms Arroyo when the two of them met Thursday night.

Earlier yesterday, seven Cabinet members and three bureau chiefs urged Ms Arroyo to make the "supreme sacrifice" by stepping down and relinquishing her position to Vice President Noli de Castro.

The Cabinet officials called a press conference to announce their "irrevocable" resignation, which, they said, had been preempted by the President.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima read the group's statement titled "Of Leadership and Credibility." The others—Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, Education Secretary Florencio Abad, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Trade Secretary Juan Santos, Agrarian Reform Secretary Rene Villa, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles, National Anti-Poverty Commission Chair Imelda Nicolas, Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno and Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina—sat in silence.

Later in a joint briefing at the Peninsula Manila, the Makati Business Club (MBC) and Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) said the resignation of the Cabinet officials "illustrates the loss of confidence in the President and her ability to advance economic and social development programs."

They said Ms Arroyo should resign "for the sake of national unity and for the sake of moving forward." A coalition of civil society groups echoed the call.

CORY/ A22

C. PURISIMA

D. SOLIMAN

F. ABAD

J. SANTOS

E. BONCODIN

G. PARAYNO

T. DELES

I. NICOLAS

A. LINA

R. VILLA

'I WILL NOT RESIGN'

EDWIN BACASMAS

JUST ONE OF THE BOYS, or so it seems when Vice President Noli de Castro meets with President Arroyo on Friday at the Palace to tender his resignation as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council. Their congenial encounter draws cheers from all the President's men present.

Breathtaking events narrow President's options

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE RESIGNATION of a third of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet on Wednesday triggered the erosion of her constituencies in the business community and the bureaucracy. Whether the erosion will spread on to two other constituencies crucial to the survival of her government—the Church and the military—is an issue that will be decided in a matter of days, in view of the breathtaking velocity of the events that have narrowed the options for a constitutional solution of the crisis.

Even if the military high command has declared a hands-off position in the crisis, there is no assurance they won't make a move if the crisis turns ugly and the stalemate threatens to lead to disorder in the streets.

Fortunately, the streets are not agitated and not unruly, unlike the huge demonstrations of 1986 and 2001. Without pressure from the streets, military intervention is less likely than in 1986 and 2001, and the lack of huge crowds gives the government a chance to redirect the unrest to the impeachment channel.

The Cabinet resignations have reinforced the

BREATHTAKING/ A20

Still defiant, she slams critics for nat'l crisis

By Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

EMBATTLED President Macapagal-Arroyo, digging in amid a snowballing call for her resignation, yesterday rejected former President Corazon Aquino's plea that she stand down and challenged her opponents to impeach her.

"With all due respect to President Aquino and others, I say, that their actions caused deep and grievous harm to the nation because they undermine our democratic principles and the very foundation of our Constitution," the President said.

For the second straight day, Ms Arroyo went on national radio to declare that she would not give in to calls for her resignation in the aftermath of her admission two weeks ago that hers was the voice caught in a wiretap. Her opponents said the recording was evidence of vote rigging. Ms Arroyo has said this constitutes a "lapse in judgment" but vigorously denies it constituted vote fraud.

Dismissing opposition claims that she had lost the moral authority to govern, the President said she was "duly elected to uphold the Constitution and ensure that the institutions of the nation were strengthened not weakened."

Ms Arroyo lamented that the country had "fallen into a dangerous pattern where the answer to every crisis is to subvert due process rather than work within the system" and called for a stop to this.

I WILL/ A21

AT A GLANCE

GMA: 24 hours

July 7

7:30 p.m.—President Arroyo meets with Vice President Noli de Castro at the Palace.

In a recorded message, President Arroyo declares she will not resign and demands the resignation of all secretaries to give her a free hand in revamping the Cabinet

10 p.m.—Former President Corazon Aquino meets the President in Malacañang to ask her to step down.

July 8

10 a.m.—The core economic team led by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima holds a press conference announcing their irrevocable resignation and asking the President to step down to give way to Vice President Noli de Castro.

Manila is put on highest alert level; the military says it will stay neutral.

11 a.m.—The President meets with two-thirds of her Cabinet who submitted their courtesy resignation. De Castro attends the Cabinet meeting.

12 p.m.—Senate President and Liberal Party president Franklin Drilon announces that the LP is urging Ms Arroyo to resign.

1 p.m.—Loyal Cabinet officials led by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita holds a press conference declaring their unwavering support to the President and shooting down calls for her resignation. House Speaker Jose de Venecia joins them to express his support to the President.

2 p.m.—Sen. Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party issues a statement opposing calls for the President to resign.

3 p.m.—Aquino holds press conference appealing to the President to resign for the sake of the nation. Makati Business Club also comes out supporting Aquino but rival business group Philippine

GMA/ A21

Closer to presidency, Noli wants 2nd chance for Gloria

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE President Noli de Castro may be a heartbeat away from the Philippine presidency but he is simply letting the increasing thump of the current political fever take its course.

Like the rest of the Cabinet secretaries, De Castro yesterday tendered his resignation as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers and alternate chair of the Anti-Poverty Commission.

The Vice President hurriedly left the Palace—not waiting for a press conference held by pro-Arroyo Cabinet secretaries comprising a third of the President's official family.

In a statement later, De Castro called on Filipinos to give Ms Arroyo a chance to rethink her position following the mass resignation of 10 Cabinet secretaries, ignoring opposition call that he make a categorical stand on the crisis roiling the nation.

But after former President Corazon Aquino threw her voice behind the resign movement, De Castro issued the closest thing to a statement of position.

"We should accord due deference and serious thought to President Cory Aquino's call to rally behind the Constitution," said the 56-year-old former radio and television personality.

"We should respect President Cory's call. I only wish to remind everyone that the exercise of our democratic rights must be made within the bounds of the Constitution and the rule of law," De Castro said.

He said he remained confident that Ms Arroyo "will discern well and will decide with no less than the welfare of the nation and the greater number of Filipinos in mind."

De Castro also thanked former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and other Cabinet secretaries who, in announcing their resignation and demanding that Ms Arroyo quit, said they supported him as the constitutional successor.

De Castro said he would continue with his work as vice president and focus his energy on uplifting the poor.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson called on De Castro to speak up and make public his stand on the political crisis.

Asked for comment, lawyer Jessie Andres, De Castro's chief of staff and spokesperson, said the Vice President believed in the constitutional process, particularly on succession.

"It would be improper for the

CLOSER/ A20

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Eastern Mindanao. Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/07/09/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

RP has its first case of bird flu

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COUNTRY has its first case of bird flu, but the strain is not deadly to humans.

At least three ducks in a small farm in Calumpit, Bulacan were found to have H5, a "low-pathogen" strain of avian influenza, outgoing Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap announced yesterday.

Poultry exports, mainly to Japan, would be temporarily halted as a precaution, he added.

The Philippines' P150-billion peso poultry industry employs 300,000 people. At least 54 people have died of bird flu since 2003 in Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia. Most had been in contact with birds infected with the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus. Tens of millions of farm birds have died of bird flu or have been killed since 2003 in an effort to halt the spread.

Yap and Health Secretary Francisco Duque III clarified that the findings by the Bureau of Animal Industry did not mean that the virus had already landed on Philippine soil.

IT'S SAFE. Health Secretary Francisco Duque (from left), Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and incoming Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban eat fried chicken after announcing the Philippines' first case of bird flue at a presscon Friday in QuezonCity. JOAN BONDOC

"I can assure you there's no indication it's the H5N1," Yap said at a news conference, "There are no symptoms, no mortality, no transmission (among the birds). The risk to human health is almost nil," he added.

"We are very lucky we caught it at a very early stage, and we are confident that we can contain it. Chicken and duck products are safe to eat," Yap said, as he and other officials at the news conference munched fried chicken to prove their point.

Migratory birds

Yap said the virus could have been spread by migratory birds from Candaba swamp and stressed that the area had already been secured to prevent people from touching the wild birds.

To prevent the spread of the flu strain, the Agriculture and Health departments will undertake various control measures. These include imposing a three-kilometer (two-mile) quarantine zone around the affected area, and the immediate culling of affected flocks.

Blood samples from the farm in Calumpit had been collected and sent to a laboratory in Australia for further testing. Results on the specific strain were expected within a week, Yap said.

The Philippines, which had been the only Asian country with a significant poultry industry not been affected by bird flu, had taken a number of precautionary measures, including strict bans on poultry imports from affected countries.

How it is transmitted

Duque warned that a person could be infected with the virus from contact with fowls and poultry products carrying the flu's deadly H5N1 strain and from touching contaminated surfaces. Infected birds spread the virus through their saliva, nasal secretion and feces.

He said measures were in place to prevent the H5NI strain from entering the country or in the event that it actually contaminates local poultry.

The strain found in the Bulacan ducks "does not cause disease or symptoms in the fowl," he pointed out. He said "it doesn't mean that just because it's an (avian influenza) virus, it's highly pathogenic" or strong enough to cause a disease.

A sign that the bird flu had indeed arrive was when an infected duck would show symptoms or actually died, according to Yap. "Right now, if you look at these birds, you'll see that they're healthy."

Tracing the strain

Yap said authorities found out about the flu strain in the Calumpit farm through a series of laboratory tests that were completed on June 29.

The owner wanted to export *balut* to Hong Kong and had the ducks submitted to a routine check, as part of international standards in bird flu prevention, he said.

Other duck farmers, like the members of the United Broiler Raisers Association (Ubra) and the Philippine Association of Broiler Integrators (Pabi) said their poultry farms were far from the affected area. *With reports from Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk, Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Christine Gaylican, AP and AFP*

Opposition forces press demand for GMA to quit in Makati rally

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THOUSANDS of protesters gathered yesterday afternoon on Ayala Avenue, Makati City, calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign.

In a repeat of last week's rally at the Ninoy Aquino Monument on the corner of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas, militants, opposition leaders, students and Metro Manila residents again clamored for Ms Arroyo to step down.

"We will fight until [Ms Arroyo] steps down. All we want is a genuine change for the country. We will never let go," San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito told the crowd composed of militant groups Bayan, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Anakpawis, Bayan Muna, Gabriela, supporters of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., the United Opposition (UNO) and the National Coordinating Council for Volunteers (NCCV).

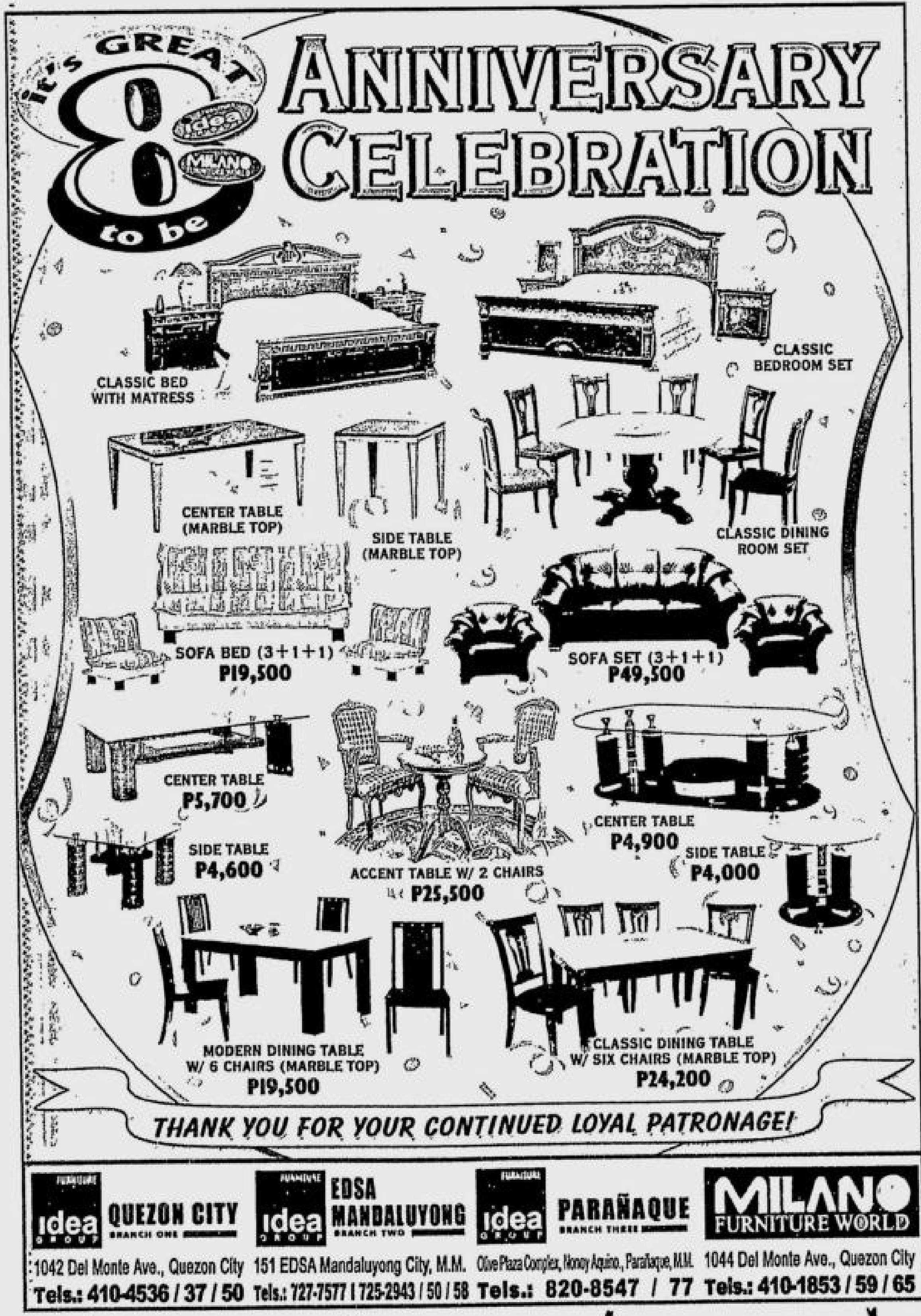
The crowd, which according to organizers numbered 7,000, chanted: "Gloria, Gloria, *Bumaba ka na! Susan naman!* (Step down; it's Susan's turn)," referring to Poe's widow Susan Roces.

According to police estimates, protesters swelled to 10,000 at 5:30 p.m., filling up both lanes of Ayala Avenue from Paseo de Roxas to Buendia Avenue.

Metro Manila police chief Vidal Querol said protesters had secured a permit from Makati Mayor and UNO chair Jejomar Binay.

"There was a sudden call for this gathering and the people responded. We are talking about resignation and that's part of the Constitution...We will follow the will of the people," Binay told reporters, adding that in the event that Ms Arroyo resigns, "[Susan] has said that if she is needed, she will be ready." *With Luige A. del Puerto*

ANTI-GMA protesters flash the thumbs down sign during a rally at Ayala Avenue in Makati City Friday. ERIK ARAZAS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Roco party urges Comelec commissioners to resign

By Michael Lim Ubac

AKSYON Demokratiko, a member of the majority coalition in the Lower House, yesterday asked the election commissioners to vacate their positions to pave the way for snap elections.

Party spokesperson and former senatorial candidate Jay Sonza told the INQUIRER that the executive committee of Aksyon affirmed the position of their president emeritus, Raul Roco, that Ms Arroyo should resign and snap elections should be held immediately.

"On top of that, we're appealing to the sense of patriotism of the present members of the Commission on Elections to vacate their positions so that meaningful reforms in the institution tarnished by the 'Hello Garci' scandal could be restored," said Sonza.

Sonza said the resignation of election commissioners and regional directors could lead to a revamp in the poll body.

He said the party was studying the proposal to set up a caretaker government pending the institution of "systemic reforms."

"But we have to follow the constitutional process. We have to consider Noli de Castro being the sitting vice president although he, too, was tainted by allegations of poll fraud," he said.

"Until the the vice president speaks of how he intends to do with the country, we will hold in abeyance our position. We challenge him to speak out. The VP has not made any position on how he intends to run the government if he assumes the presidency. The VP must now make a position so that the people will be guided on where he will bring the nation in the event of a vacancy," said Sonza.

Ombudsman to inhibit self from Gloria-Garci tape probe

By Nelson Flores

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo yesterday said he would inhibit himself from any investigation into the alleged wiretapped conversation between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Commission on Elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Marcelo issued the statement after Akbayan Party-list Reps. Mario Aguja and Loretta Ann Rosales asked his office to investigate the President and other public officials involved in the wiretapping controversy.

He stressed that being an appointee of the President, he always inhibit himself from cases involving Ms Arroyo.

But Marcelo assured that the investigation on the President would be impartial. "There is a high degree of independence among our field investigators," he said.

Marcelo revealed that Ombudsman field investigators have began collecting evidence to "determine if there are violations committed" by the people, including the President, who were tagged in the alleged wiretapped conversation.

He said he would form a committee composed of deputy ombudsmen once the investigation is finished.

On Tuesday, Aguja, Rosales and a passenger jeep load of supporters trooped to the Office of the Ombudsman to ask Marcelo to moto propio (on its own) investigate Ms Arroyo and other public officials named in the controversial conversation.

In their two-page letter to Marcelo, Aguja and Rosales said the controversial conversation between the President and Garcillano, among others, "point to possible violations of the constitution and of various laws."

Among the laws probably violated were the Omnibus Election Code, the Revised Penal Code, Republic Acts 6713 (the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officers and Employees) and 3019 (the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act), and Presidential Decree 1829 (the Obstruction of Justice Law), Aguja and Rosales said.

"We come to your office with the urgent appeal to please conduct an immediate and thorough investigation on these possible violations of the law and the Constitution and file the appropriate criminal, administrative or impeachment charges, as the case may be and as may be warranted by the results of your investigation," the two legislators said.

Aguja and Rosales also presented a compact disc containing the alleged wiretapped conversation between the President and Garcillano.

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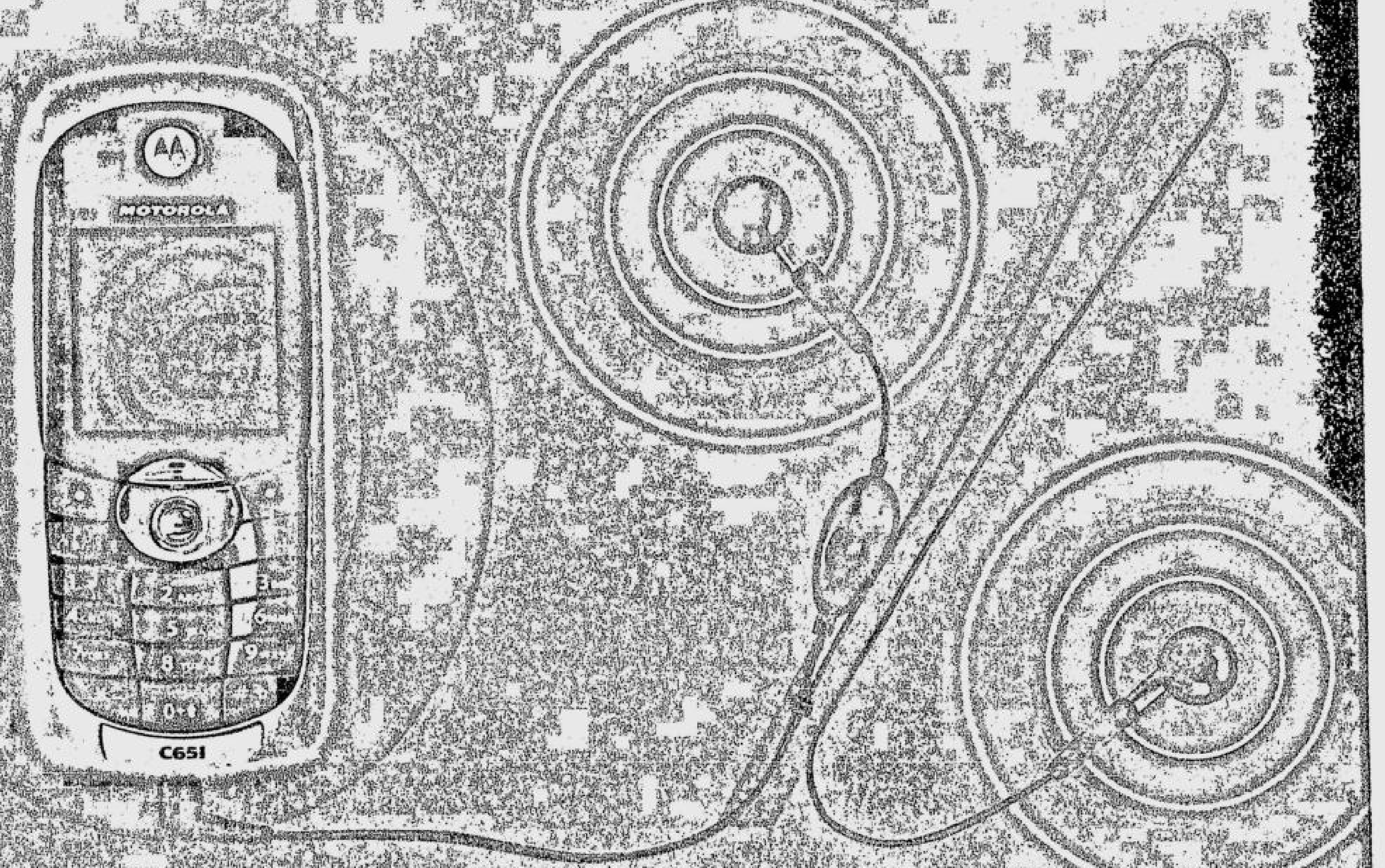

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STATEMENT OF THE ATENEO LAW ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC.

During the past weeks, events which unfolded rocked the nation. From the exposé of Archbishop Cruz on alleged jueteng payolas to the wiretapped conversations involving the President herself and one COMELEC official. Amidst these controversies, some quarters have asked the President to resign while others offered to establish a civilian-military junta.

While steps have to be undertaken to resolve this political situation, some of the alternatives being advanced, however, are not legally acceptable.

It is in this light that we firmly believe that any solution to this crisis should be in accordance with the rule of law. While it is palpable that our nation is in the threshold of political polarization because of these very issues that divide, we are not a nation without laws.

We are against any unlawful means to supplant a duly constituted authority. We are against any form of violence or uprising that will undermine our Constitutional processes. More importantly, we cannot appropriate for ourselves the right to determine who the rightful successor is or who has moral authority to govern.

The President has made her statement on the issues and has emphasized that she takes full responsibility for all her actions. The alternatives have been laid down. As the duly proclaimed Chief Executive of our Republic, let her decide rightfully what is best for her office and for the country.

As a nation, we call on our fellow Filipinos to remain vigilant against any attempt to sow confusion and disorder. We call on our fellow Filipinos to discern our stand on the issues with sobriety. Let us have faith in our democratic process and let us uphold the rule of law.

LEIGHTON R. SIAZON
President

JUS. SANTIAGO RANADA JR.
Trustee

GAMALIEL A. CORDOBA
Executive Vice President

RICHARD AMURAO
Trustee

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VP External/Gov't. Affairs

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President 2003-2004

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Ex-Taiwan solon convicted of raping his Filipino maid

TAIPEI, Taiwan—A former Taiwanese vice presidential candidate and lawmaker was convicted Friday of sexually assaulting his Filipino maid last year.

Elmer Fung, 56, was sentenced to four years in jail. Tests showed semen samples taken from the maid's underwear matched Fung's DNA, a statement from a Taipei district court said.

Fung insists he is innocent and that the woman made up the allegations to get even with Fung's wife for complaining about the maid's work and reprimanding her.

He said he could not have raped the woman because his family was in his small apartment at the time of the reported rape on Jan. 23, 2004. He suggested that the maid framed him by taking semen from a condom he had used with his wife.

The court dismissed his argument, saying no one else had been in the apartment at the time.

The maid, whose name has not been released, was examined at a Taipei hospital and then returned to the Philippines, where she gave her testimony to local police.

Fung was a fringe vice presidential candidate for the tiny New Party in 2000. In 2001, he lost a re-election bid for a seat in the legislature.

He did not appear in court on Friday to hear the verdict.

His daughter, Fung Fu-hwa, said her father will appeal the case.

"The judge took the only evidence presented by the maid and ignored all the evidence we presented," she said. *AP*

Filipina among those hurt in London terror attacks

By Nikko Dizon and Jerome Aning

A FILIPINA was among those injured in the terror blasts which ripped through a subway in Central London on Thursday, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

The DFA identified the injured Filipina as Catherine Tantoco Daniel, who is married to a British national. Daniel sustained burns and lacerations resulting from glass splinters, the DFA said.

Her husband, Tim Daniel, informed the Philippine Embassy that she is now confined at the Royal London Hospital. She has been declared out of danger.

"Doctors at the hospital have characterized the Filipina's injuries as superficial and non-life threatening, though she may take a few weeks to completely recover," the DFA said.

Mrs. Daniel was on a train when a bomb exploded near the Aldgate East tube station shortly before 9 a.m. on Thursday, Philippine Ambassador to the Court of St. James Edgardo Espiritu said in his report to the DFA.

Espiritu said the Philippine Embassy is also checking other hospitals in the area for other Filipinos who may have been injured by the series of bomb blasts that rocked various stations of the Central London underground train service.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo has condemned the attack that left 37 people dead and hundreds injured.

"The Philippine government and people condemn and deplore in the strongest terms the series of explosions that rocked several public areas in London yesterday," the DFA said in a statement.

"The Philippines expresses its solidarity with the people of the United Kingdom in facing this menace to human society and hopes that those responsible of this despicable act of terror will be brought to justice," the statement said.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas yesterday ordered labor officials in London to closely monitor the conditions and address the needs of Filipino residents and workers there.

Sto. Tomas directed the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in London to extend any possible assistance to Daniel and to keep a close watch on other Filipinos in the area to ensure their safety.

Sto. Tomas urged OFWs in London to register with the POLO if they plan to move or shift employers.

"This way, the POLO will know where you are and will be able to respond appropriately to you if so required," she said. *With AFP report*

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STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO BY THE LEAGUE OF PROVINCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

We, the undersigned members of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, in response to the current political turmoil affecting the country, do hereby declare:

1. That we pledge our loyalty to the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines and our respect to the rule of law and due process;
2. That we commit our unwavering support to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who was duly elected by the Filipino people by a convincing margin in the 2004 elections;
3. That the recent political unrest fomented by personalities identified with the political opposition and the left has affected the delivery by government of services to our people in the countryside;
4. That the brazen disregard by the President's detractors of the rule of law and due process and their shameless proposal for the installation of a military-civilian junta is nothing but a barefaced power grab;
5. That we will oppose and reject any attempt to subvert the will of the people through extra-legal and unconstitutional means;
6. That we call on all sectors of society to give the Filipino people a respite from dirty politics and allow the contry to move towards progress; and
7. That we call on the Filipino people, our constituents, to rally behind the Constitution and the President, protect our institutions and preserve our democratic gains for the sake of our country, our children and future generation.

Signed this 7th day of July 2005 during the Special General Assembly of the League of Provinces of the Philippines at the Century Park Sheraton, Manila, Philippines.

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Bohol / LPP President

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Benguet

Victor Aguedo Agbayani
Pangasinan

Pedro Bacani
Quirino

Raul Lee
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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

AFP defends awarding Valor medal on Buan

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY yesterday defended the awarding of the Medal of Valor on Lt. Col. Noel Buan in the face of protests by two former recipients of the highest combat military award.

According to Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, the Armed Forces deputy chief of staff, the objections of two colonels who questioned the award given to Buan and Sgt. Leopoldo Diokno were overruled by the 15-man Medal of Valor Board and by a special review board.

"We should be objective. If you have a personal grudge, don't let it influence your work. We should be professional," said Adan, who chaired the five-man special review board.

Protest

On May 5, Army Col. Arturo Ortiz and Marine Lt. Col. Custodio Parcon quit the Medal of Valor Board to protest the medals given to Buan and Diokno last December for "neutralizing" Abu Sayyaf sub-commander Hamsiraji Sali in April 2004.

Ortiz also resigned as commander of the Armed Forces Joint Operations Center on June 10. He is still waiting to be reassigned.

Ortiz and Parcon, who are among a handful of Medal of Valor awardees who are still in active duty, raised several points to show that Buan and Diokno did not meet the award's criteria.

Deceit

They said the Abu Sayyaf leader was about to surrender to Buan that day. They also said Buan's forces outnumbered Sali's.

But Adan argued that tricking Sali into surrendering before killing him did not disqualify Buan and Diokno from receiving the honor.

"Deceit is part of military doctrine. A commander should do everything, including deception to capture the enemy," Adan said.

He admitted that President Macapagal-Arroyo had declared that Buan deserved the Medal of Valor even before the Medal of Valor Board could start their deliberations.

President's prerogative

Adan said this was within the President's prerogative.

He said the same board had ruled to give Diokno the Distinguished Conduct Star, the second highest military award.

But the Board of Generals overruled the board and ruled to award Diokno the Medal of Valor, Adan said.

"There's a process we follow and if the command decides, they should respect the decision of the command," Adan said.

He said the military leadership was considering not appointing any more awardees to the Medal of Valor Board, as they tended to compare their combat experience with those of prospective awardees.

Their records

Ortiz received his Medal of Valor in December 1990 after leading troops in a two-hour gun battle with communist guerrillas in Murcia, Negros Occidental. He is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1979.

Under Ortiz, the 606th Special Forces Company overran a rebel camp composed of 28 huts and recovered a cache of firearms.

Parcon, a graduate of PMA Class of 1987, was awarded the Medal of Valor in December 1994 for his role in the rescue of Luis Anthony Biel III from his Abu Sayyaf captors.

The rescue operation also resulted in the killing of 46 bandits and the recovery of firearms.

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Metro on highest state of alert

THE MILITARY yesterday said Metro Manila was now on the highest state of alert, following a growing chorus of calls on embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign.

"In connection with the obtaining internal security situation, the National Capital Region command is hereby placed on red alert, effective 12 noon," said a statement that Armed Forces Chief Gen. Efren Abu sent to all military units.

The National Capital Region Police Office was also placed on full alert yesterday as "political jockeying" intensified, said NCRPO Director Vidal Querol.

'Preemptive measures'

Abu ordered "preemptive measures to prevent/deter threat groups from launching offensive actions against our forces and from instigating hostility and destabilization that could lead to an attack to the seat of government."

"We don't want to see any of our officers and men getting involved in rallies or demonstrations whether to support or not to support anybody in any position. That's not our job," Adan told reporters at a command conference in Camp Aguinaldo.

"We have learned from the past," added Abu who was supposed to retire on June 24 but whose term was extended to Aug. 15 because of the political crisis.

Querol said the police was in full control so the public could go about with their daily activities.

"We will not allow any form of anarchy to roam the streets," Querol said in a phone interview.

"We are also [warning] armed components of the Left that they should not venture or take advantage of the intense political jockeying right now," Querol stressed.

The NCRPO went on "heightened alert" on Thursday night after four blasts rocked the London Underground killing at least 45 people.

Political turmoil

Querol said that apart from the political turmoil, the police was also guarding against terrorists who might take advantage of the situation.

Vital installations and commercial establishments have also been secured, he said.

"I also advised my men not to be distracted by these political [chaos] so they could perform their duties well," he said.

He also stressed that Ms Arroyo was still the President and assured the public that the police chain of command was still intact.

"We don't want the Philippine National Police to be broken. We will be true to our Constitution," he said. *Dona Pazzibugan and Jocelyn R. Uy*

Military will not intervene in political crisis, says Abu

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ARMED Forces Chief Gen. Efren Abu yesterday said the military would not intervene in the political crisis as calls increased for President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign.

Abu appeared to deviate from the line that he has stuck to in the past few weeks that the military was "solidly" behind the President.

In an emergency command conference at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday, Abu said the military should keep to its sworn duty to uphold the Constitution and protect the people and leave the current "political exercise" to politicians.

"The soldier has the duty to protect this political exercise. He is not expected to intervene in it. To do so would betray the trust given to him by the State," Abu told military commanders.

"The outcome of these political developments would be the result of the Filipino people's collective will, not the soldier's intervention or some officers' expression of grievances," he added.

"Let us re-establish the noble tradition of military professionalism by insulating our officers and men from politics. We owe it to the future generation," Abu said.

He urged soldiers to resist the temptation to express what their political preference was.

Command conference

"These manifestations do not belong to the soldier. Our duty is simple: to protect our people by preventing those who would coerce them or threaten their freedoms," Abu said.

All the top military officials were at the command conference, said Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, the deputy chief of staff who read Abu's policy statement.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., who happened to be in Malacañang at the time, did not attend the conference.

Since the crisis started, Abu has been insisting, through various spokespersons, that the military was "solidly" behind the President.

In January 2001, it was the military's withdrawal of support which hastened the downfall of then President Estrada amid accusations of massive corruption and incompetence.

Chain of command

Asked if the military would still follow the orders of the President, Adan said the AFP was sworn to follow the military chain of command.

"There is a chain of command. (We will follow) all legitimate orders," he said.

Adan stressed the military would defend the "constitutional process."

Should the President ask the military to suppress antigovernment rallies, Adan said they would ensure peace and order while upholding the people's freedom of expression.

He said they would move against communist rebels or other threat groups who would take advantage of the situation to grab power.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday urged the military and police to avert a pre-martial law-like violence designed to forestall a peaceful transition to a new government.

In a press briefing, Pimentel said that he was worried that saboteurs might disrupt an "otherwise peaceful unfolding of a new government."

He said the military and police should "deter people who might be tempted to use [the] Marcos pre-martial law scenario, which means the creation of incidence of violence all over Metro Manila, or maybe all over the country to forestall the eventual coming about of a new government."

He recalled that bombings and other forms of violence occurred around Metro Manila just before then President Marcos declared martial law in September 1972.

Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Panfilo Lacson called on the military and police to maintain their neutrality amid the crisis and continue performing their primary role of keeping law and order.

"I don't want the military to be involved. If the military stays away from being a factor to the resolution to the controversy, I support that," said Biazon, who was defense secretary during the Aquino administration. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 9, 2005
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Gen 49:29-32; 50:15-26
Gospel:	Matthew 10:24-33

Jesus said to his apostles, "A student is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master. A student should be glad to become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If the head of the family has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of the family! So, do not be afraid of them.

"There is nothing covered that will not be uncovered, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. What I am telling you in the dark, you must speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops.

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but have no power to kill the soul. Rather be afraid of him who can destroy both body and soul in hell. For only a few cents you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent. As for you, every hair of your head has been counted. So do not be afraid: you are worth much more than many sparrows.

"Whoever acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my Father in heaven. Whoever rejects me before others I will reject before my Father in heaven."

Commentary

Jesus describes the community of disciples as those hounded from one town to the next, one synagogue to the next, in all of Israel—just as he has traveled all throughout Israel, seeking who is lost, and preaching to anyone who is open to his Word. And the student will be like the master-and they (we) should be glad to be like our teacher, who was maligned and rejected. But have no fear for there will be a day of reckoning and truth telling and all will be revealed. Now, even in dark corners and hard times—preach what we have been told and cry out for justice, for the poor, for hope, for liberation and freedom as the beloved children of God. Do we live and struggle for truth in communities of discipleship and reach out beyond our small churches and parishes to bring the Word that speaks of justice and forgiveness, love of enemies and concern for the least? Are we like our Master at all?

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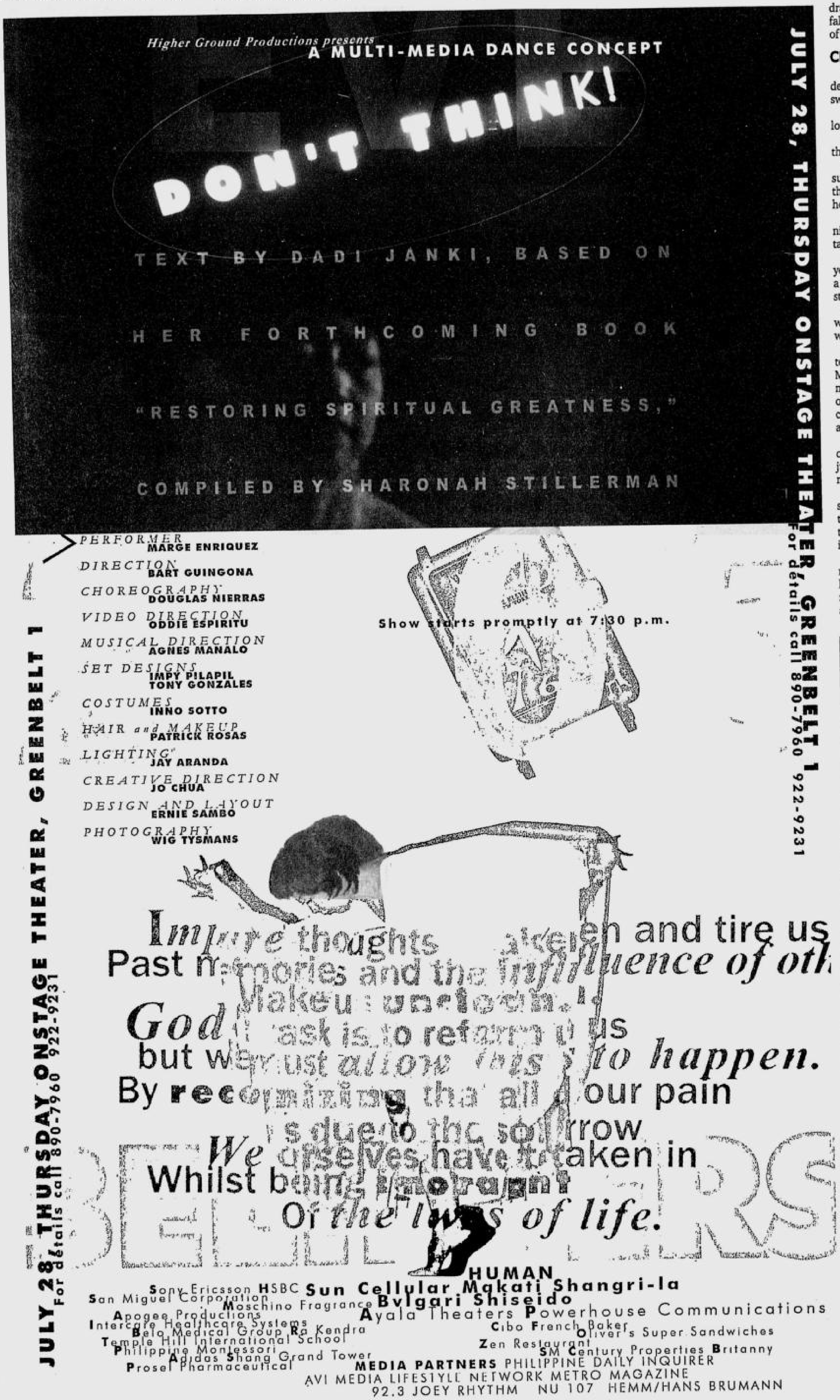

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BELIEVERS

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UK sees Qaida hand in attacks

LONDON—British police hunting bombers who killed dozens of people in four rush-hour blasts in London are taking seriously a claim of responsibility by a group declaring links to al-Qaida, the government said on Friday.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the coordinated blasts in trains and a bus bore "the hallmarks of an al-Qaida-related attack," and the interior minister said investigators were examining a statement by a previously unknown group calling itself the "Secret Group of al-Qaida's Jihad in Europe."

"The web site claim is a serious one, so we will look at that very closely but we haven't eliminated any alternative explanations. We're looking at everything very widely," Charles Clarke told Sky News television a day after the explosions.

The attacks were the deadliest in the British capital in peacetime and occurred as the Group of Eight (G8) top industrialized countries held a summit in Gleneagles, Scotland.

Police said they received no warning of the attacks. Britain backed the war in Iraq, and London had been on high alert since the Islamic militant al-Qaida group's Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

Many Londoners went to work, some on foot, some in buses and others on the underground rail network—"the Tube"—which resumed partial services on Friday.

"What happened yesterday was terrible but it won't make me act any differently and I think most people in London feel the same way," said Moses Abaju, 56, as he waited in Dalston, northeast London, for a number 30 bus.

Three of the explosions tore through busy underground trains and the fourth ripped the roof off a red double-decker bus.

Police gave a provisional death toll of 37 but Australian Prime Minister John Howard said he was told 52 people were killed.

The attacks wounded 700 people and shut down the Tube network which carries 3 million passengers a day. Police urged commuters to consider whether to come to work on Friday, fearing more chaos on the transport system.

"The possibility of suicide bombings is being considered as is every other possible detonation," Clarke, the home secretary, said.

"The key thing is getting forensics from the scenes of crime to try and understand how these bombs were detonated (and) who put them there."

Financial markets initially fell sharply after the blasts.

But oil prices recovered to near $61 on Friday as analysts said the attacks were expected to have a limited impact on the global economy and oil demand.

Sterling hit a fresh 19-month low against the dollar on Friday.

The Islamic Human Rights Commission warned London Muslims to stay at home, fearing a backlash against the community. The Muslim Council of Britain, which represents 1.6 million Muslims, called for prayers for the victims.

"We know that these people act in the name of Islam," British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Thursday, but declined to speculate who was behind the attacks.

Thursday's scenes of shocked and bloodied commuters were in stark contrast to the jubilant crowds who took to the streets on Wednesday after London was awarded the 2012 Olympic Games.

Police said seven people were killed on an underground train near Liverpool Street, 21 were confirmed dead in another near King's Cross and seven died at Edgware Road. At least two passengers on the bus were killed.

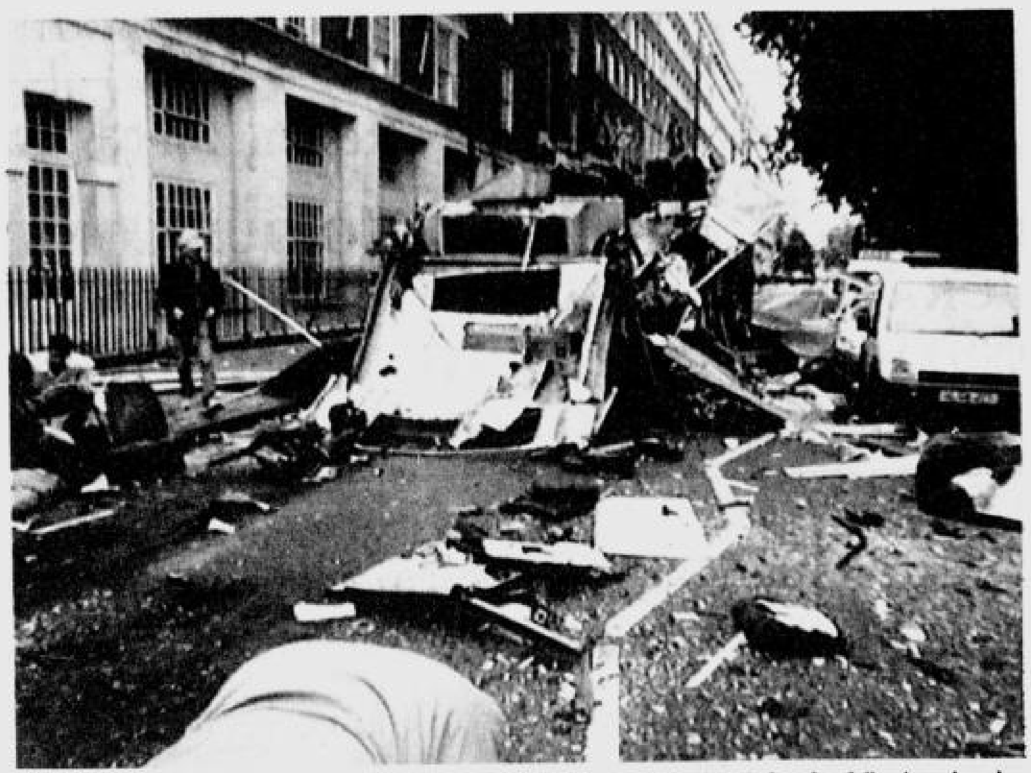
Italy's interior minister said all Europe was on alert. The United States raised its terrorism threat level to "high" and France drafted in extra troops to tighten security.

Security analysts said it was far too early to apportion blame to the intelligence community over the attacks, which some suspected was the work of a small, autonomous group of local militants inspired by al-Qaida.

Britain's Guardian newspaper said intelligence chiefs had reduced the threat level from al-Qaida only last month.

A senior US intelligence official, who asked not to be identified, said the United States had detected no indication an attack had been imminent in London.

"We do have intelligence... that al-Qaida is trying to carry out such attacks in Europe as well as in the homeland here against targets such as this," he told reporters, referring to mass transport. *Reuters*



PHOTOGRAPH taken by a passerby shows destruction near Tavistock Place in London following a bomb blast on a bus July 7. Four blasts ripped through London during rush hour on Thursday morning, killing at least 37 people and disrupting a summit of Group of Eight leaders in Scotland in attacks Prime Minister Tony Blair branded as "barbaric." REUTERS

UK intel in spotlight over blasts

LONDON—The bombers who spread death and chaos across London's transport network slipped under the radar of police and intelligence services who said there was no advance warning of the capital's worst militant attack.

Security analysts said it was far too early to apportion blame to the intelligence community over an operation that some suspected was the work of a small, autonomous group of local militants inspired by al-Qaida.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke confirmed media reports that intelligence chiefs had reduced the threat level from al-Qaida from "severe-general" to "substantial" as recently as last month following Britain's general election.

But he said even if the alert level had been higher, it was unlikely the bombers could have been stopped.

"At the end of the day we are looking for needles in a very large haystack, the city of London," Clarke said.

"We're obviously looking very, very carefully at all our intelligence to see whether anything was missed, but in fact we don't believe anything was missed and it simply came out of the blue."

But Anthony Glees, an intelligence specialist at Brunel University, said questions would be asked as to why the threat level was reduced shortly before Britain was due to host a Group of Eight summit of the world's most powerful leaders.

"They did downgrade the threat even though it was objectively quite clearly a time of heightened political interest. I think questions will be asked about it," he said. *Reuters*

FILIPINO COMMUNITIES ABROAD EXPRESS UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR PGMA

We, the FilCom leaders in Riyadh, strongly denounce and condemn any attempt by any group or individual to resolve the current impasse through unconstitutional and undemocratic means since this will only destabilize our fragile economy and bring more hardships to Filipino people. It is time for us to close ranks and cooperate with the leaders of our government to hasten our development and progress.

-- OFW Leaders in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

We of the FFCI reaffirm our support for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and to her Administration's programs and projects that are truly of service to the Filipinos nationwide.

-- Federation of Filipino Communities in Israel

We declare our continuing support to the President and to manifest our commitment to her leadership. We also call on the Filipino people to return to work, allow the government to function normally and the socio-economic and political development of the country to proceed. We also urge our countrymen to respect the rule of law, uphold the Constitution and to support the duly constituted authorities.

-- Filipino Community in Malaysia

We the Filipino Overseas Workers in Singapore are proud of being Filipinos and grateful to have President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It is time for every Filipino to rally behind her and continue to work together to achieve what we all hope for, a peaceful and progressive Philippines.

-- Mga Pilipino sa Singapore

We are solidly behind our leaders now in government and that any destabilization and or ouster move by anyone from anywhere outside of the framework of the Constitution, will definitely be unacceptable! And let us all say--- NO to anarchy! NO to military takeover, NO to the so called transitional revolutionary junta! NO to extra constitutional ouster move! NO to conspiracy! YES to democracy! YES to freedom! And YES to the preservation of the status quo in government!

-- Filipino Community Social Club-Oman

Our respect for the Presidency remains steadfast and unchanged through tough times. Our sentiment is with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who is able to maintain her maturity, professionalism, integrity and service through the trying times of her sovereignty. Mabuhay ang Pilipino, Mabuhay ang Pilipinong Manggagawa. Mabuhay ang bansang Pilipinas!

-- Philippine Nurses Association of the United Kingdom

We, the Filipino community in Kuwait, affirm our unwavering faith and trust in President Gloria Macapagal-arroyo's leadership. You had been strong for us, stood by us during the Iraqi crisis and even weathered the risks to your own life when you came to visit us at the time to assure us, with your presence, that your government would do everything possible within its means and resources to ensure our safety. The concern and compassion that you manifested left an indelible imprint in all our hearts.

-- United Filipino Community in Kuwait

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LCP General Assembly Resolution No. GARES-2005-002

EXPRESSING COMMITMENT TO OUR CONSTITUTION AND ITS DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES, THE RULE OF LAW, AND OUR DULY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES - MOST SPECIFICALLY FOR HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

WHEREAS, we are all witness to a deterioration of our political situation characterized by disrespect to the Constitution and disregard for the rule of law and our duly constituted authorities;

WHEREAS, central to this is the call of some sectors for our duly elected President – Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo – to step down and resign, on the basis solely of an apology for a "lapse in judgment" which by in itself is not – and has never been – an admission of any wrongdoing.

WHEREFORE, we the City Mayors constituting the League of Cities of the Philippines, in Special Session assembled, hereby resolve:

1. To strongly support the President's continuing in Office until such time that she shall have effected the Constitutional reforms that she herself has committed to pursue;
2. To immediately institute dramatic and drastic economic and social reforms, following the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, principally focused on poverty reduction;
3. To condemn all efforts of destabilization or any move that would stray beyond the Constitutional framework.

DONE THIS 8th day of July 2005 on the occasion of the Special General Assembly of the League of Cities of the Philippines held at the historic Manila Hotel, City of Manila.

x==x

CERTIFICATION

I hereby **CERTIFY** to the correctness and authenticity of the foregoing **RESOLUTION.**

Hon. MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO
Calbayog City Mayor
LCP SECRETARY GENERAL

ATTESTED:

Hon. JERRY P. TREÑAS
Iloilo City Mayor
LCP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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Subdued G8 to forge deals on Africa, climate

GLENEAGLES, Scotland—The heads of the world's eight most powerful nations were to meet with leaders of African countries here on Friday to frame a deal for development aid, at a summit where the terror attacks in distant London cast a long and dark shadow.

Rounding off a three-day meeting, heads of state or government from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States were expected to conclude a long-awaited deal on aid and debt relief for Africa and on tackling climate change.

They were meeting with the leaders of Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania, representing the continent whose plight has dominated this year's G8 agenda.

Also on hand were the heads of the African Union Commission, International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations and the World Bank.

But a grim mood shrouded the summit after the four blasts that killed dozens of people on London's transport network on Thursday.

Prime Minister Tony Blair raced to London to assess the crisis there before returning to Gleneagles late Thursday, vowing that the summit would press ahead with its agenda for Earth's long-term problems.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, who deputized in Blair's absence, said on Friday that the attacks had forged a unity among the G8 leaders.

"The disagreements which sometimes take place around the room, of course they do, between leaders and countries are infinitesimal compared with what it is that unites all the world leaders who are here assembled in Gleneagles," he said in an interview with the BBC.

Aid activists and environmentalists, though, feared that Africa and climate change would suffer if leaders once again turned their policies and resources to fighting terrorism.

Prior to the attacks, diplomatic sources voiced skepticism that much headway would be made on the centerpiece of the Blair antipoverty plan—a proposal to provide Africa with an extra $50 billion in aid a year by 2010.

The United States has said its goal is to increase its own aid to Africa from $4.3 billion this year to $8.6 billion by 2010.

But President George W. Bush and his fellow conservatives have made clear their view that more development assistance is not necessarily what Africa needs most.

They say instead that aid should be targeted and reserved for those countries which agree to implement market-oriented economic reform, a demand that activists say will leave many Africans worse off.

Hopes were higher for action on debt cancellation, with the summit expected to endorse a proposal—already accepted by G8 finance ministers—to write off $40 billion in debt owed by 18 poor countries to international institutions.

No headway was likely on trade concessions, the third pillar of the Blair plan.

The G8 on Thursday completed a declaration and action plan on global warming that builds a bridge between the United States and its partners, according to French President Jacques Chirac.

"The agreement which we are set to reach is an important agreement, even if it doesn't go as far as we would have wanted," Chirac told a press conference.

"It restores dialogue between the seven (G8) Kyoto members and the United States," he said.

The United States is the loner in the global effort to combat greenhouse gases—the byproduct of fossil fuels that trap the Sun's heat, drive up Earth's surface temperature and damage its delicate system.

Bush has vowed never to ratify the UN Kyoto Protocol, which requires industrialized countries to trim their output of these gases by a 2008-2012 timetable compared with a 1990 benchmark.

The US leader says the targets would be ruinously costly for the oil-dependent US economy and unfair because fast-growing populous countries such as China and India are not part of the targeted emissions cuts.

The compromise communique, said Chirac, has only a couple of references to Kyoto.

But he said it would acknowledge climate change as "a reality" and say "we have to act immediately" to combat the problem.

"We have noticed a shift in the American position," said Chirac, who described this as "a major step… towards an improvement." *AFP*

China sides with Kyoto

GLENEAGLES, Scotland—Chinese President Hu Jintao renewed his backing for the UN Kyoto Protocol on climate change Thursday, urging Group of Eight nations to take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Hu made the remarks as he took part as an invited guest at the three-day summit of the some of the world's richest nations at a heavily fortified golf resort here.

"To enhance international cooperation on climate change, it is necessary first to uphold the guiding role of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol," Hu told G8 members and other invited leaders.

"Developed countries should take the lead in reducing the emission level and help developing countries with capacity building to tackle climate change," the Chinese leader said in a speech.

"It is essential to address climate change in the context of sustainable development," Hu said.

It is also important to "follow a path of development that features harmony between economic growth on the one hand and population, resources and the environment on the other," he added.

The protocol, which came into force in January, set legally binding targets for developed countries to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases blamed for global warming by 2010. *AFP*

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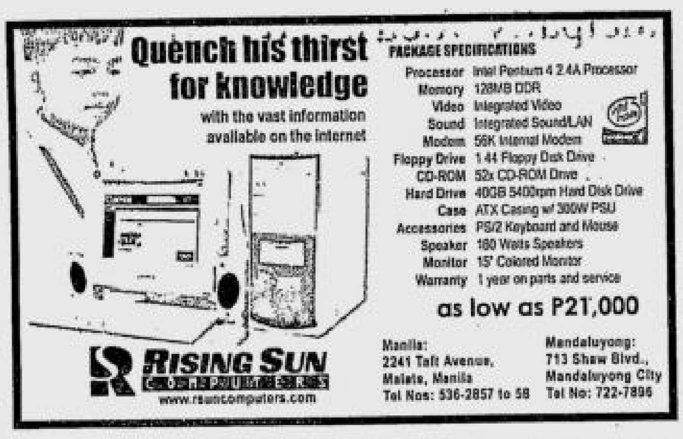
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Kidnapped Egyptian ambassador killed in Iraq

A BLINDFOLDED man purported to be Ihab el-Sherif, head of the Egyptian Diplomatic Mission in Iraq, is seen in a video on an al-Qaida-linked Web site released July 7. AP

CAIRO—Gunmen have killed the head of Egypt's diplomatic mission in Baghdad, Cairo said on Thursday.

The al-Qaida group said it executed him because he represented a "tyrannical" government allied to Jews and Christians.

The envoy, ambassador Ihab el-Sherif, was abducted near his home in Baghdad last Saturday about one month after taking up his post as one of the highest ranking Arab diplomats in Iraq.

A former diplomat in Tel Aviv, Sherif appears to have fallen foul of a conflict between insurgents and the US-backed rulers in Baghdad over Arab recognition of the government.

The Iraqi government had said Egypt planned to upgrade its representation in Baghdad to full ambassador level. Egypt said although Sherif has the civil service rank of ambassador, his title remained head of the diplomatic mission in Iraq.

Iraq's al-Qaida group announced his death on Thursday in a Web statement. "We al-Qaida in Iraq announce that the judgment of God has been implemented against the ambassador of the infidels, the ambassador of Egypt. Oh enemy of God, Ihab el-Sherif, this is your punishment in this life."

The Sunni Muslim group, led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, posted a video showing the hostage speaking but not the killing.

The Egyptian presidency confirmed that Sherif was dead, saying in a statement the envoy had "lost his life at the hands of terrorism which trades in Islam." "The Egyptian Foreign Ministry ... has received with deep pain and sadness the news of the martyrdom of Ambassador Dr. Ihab el-Sherif," added a Foreign Ministry statement.

An Egyptian diplomatic source said Egypt had confirmation of the killing "through multiple contacts" but had not received decisive evidence from the Iraqi government and did not know where Sherif's body might be.

The killing surprised the Egyptian government, which earlier on Thursday was saying it remained in contact with all Iraqi groups and hoped to secure his release.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit had told reporters that Sherif was a pious Muslim and that his mission in Iraq was to make contact with all sectors of Iraqi society.

On the video, Sherif appeared blindfolded. He identified himself by name and said he was the head of the Egyptian mission in Iraq with ambassadorial rank in Egypt's foreign ministry.

"Previously ... I was deputy to the Egyptian ambassador to Israel," he said. He appeared alone without militants.

Al-Qaida Organization for Holy War in Iraq said it would later provide details of Sherif's interrogation. *Reuters*

Denmark braces for possible attacks after London bombings

COPENHAGEN—Denmark, one of the United States' staunchest allies in Iraq, was tightening security on Friday in the wake of the deadly London blasts, amid growing fears that the Scandinavian country could be the next hit by a "terrorist attack."

"It is now not a question of whether or not Denmark will be hit by a terrorist attack, but when it is going to happen," Copenhagen University security expert Mikkel Vedby-Rasmussen said.

"I cannot look into a crystal ball and foretell the future of course but it seems unavoidable now and we must start preparing for the possibility," he added.

His warnings came a day after at least 37 people were killed and more than 700 injured in the string of rush-hour explosions in London.

A previously unknown group calling itself the Organization of al-Qaida Jihad in Europe claimed responsibility for the blasts and threatened similar attacks against "Crusader" states with troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, including Denmark.

In a statement posted on the Internet, but which could not be authenticated, it said: "We continue to warn the governments of Denmark, Italy and all the Crusaders that they will meet the same punishment if they do not withdraw their troops from Iraq and Afghanistan."

Denmark, which has 530 troops stationed near the southern Iraqi city of Basra under British command, has defiantly insisted that it will not withdraw its forces despite the threat.

"The Danish government has absolutely no intention of changing its policy, we are not going to give in to terrorists," Danish Deputy Prime Minister Bendt Bendtsen told the Ritzau national news agency on Thursday.

The Danish government's special security committee has put police and intelligence services on high alert with airports, harbors, rail stations, ferry ports, shopping malls, stadiums and other sensitive locations under heightened surveillance. *AFP*

RAINY DAY FLOWERS
A visitor with a camera takes a stroll among colorful hydrangea flowers in the compound of Hase Temple in Kamakura, west of Tokyo, July 8. Some 2,300 stocks of hydrangea bloom as the symbol of the rainy season in Japan. AP

Many China adults 'parasitic,' says study

BEIJING—About 30 percent of Chinese adults live with their parents, in part because the country's one-child policy has led parents to pamper their offspring, state media quoted a survey as saying Friday.

For three decades, China has limited most couples to one child to stem population growth in the country of 1.3 billion people. Having no siblings to compete with, children are overindulged and get what they want from their parents, the Xinhua News Agency quoted experts as saying.

The survey by a research institute for the elderly said people with a low level of education were likely to stay with their parents because it was difficult for them to find jobs. But college graduates also sometimes quit their jobs because they are dissatisfied with work, Xinhua said.

"My son stays at home and plays online games all day long, still spending our income," Zhang Baoguo told Shanghai's Wenhui Daily. "He complained to us that the job restrained him too much."

The newspaper said Zhang spends his time looking for employment for his son, a college graduate who quit his job and gave up a monthly income of about 2,000 yuan (US$240; euro200)—about 4 times the average salary in China's booming cities. The report did not say how old Zhang's son is.

Chinese parents need to do more to help their children become independent, Xinhua quoted educators as saying. No other details about the survey were provided. *AP*

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Ageing population can quell Asia's dynamism, experts warn

By Hiroshi Hiyama

TOKYO—East Asia's dynamic economies which built themselves into mass exporters through innovation and hard work could be heading into the twilight era unless they urgently find a way to have more children.

Instead of focusing its energy on designing the electronics and cultural assets that drove its wealth, East Asia in just a few decades will see its most urgent priorities turn to solidifying pension systems and medical care as a smaller working population props up a growing army of seniors.

The elderly will likely eat up their savings to survive, meaning less cash on hand for other investments that sustain economic growth, experts warned ahead of World Population Day on Monday.

Some six percent of Asia's 3.88 billion people were aged 65 or older last year.

But with people living longer and more young people choosing to put off having families, that figure is set to nearly triple to 17 percent of the estimated five billion Asians by 2050, according to the Population Reference Bureau, a US-based research group.

"The standout feature of ageing in Asian economies is that it is happening extremely fast," said Manabu Shimasawa, associate professor of economy at Japan's Akita Keizaihoka University.

"The demographic shock will lead to an increase in tax and pension burdens. The economic welfare of individuals might decrease sharply."

A study in May by ABN-Amro said Asia had an "unprecedented demographic challenge" with an ageing population and with existing pension assets that are low in proportion to Gross Domestic Product.

The study found that South Korea was the most vulnerable in part due to the relatively meager wages among nations whose populations are set to dip.

China, now the toast of the business world for its surging economic expansion, will likely see its growth plunge from nine percent in 2002 to three percent in the next 50 years, Shimasawa said.

The percentage of the elderly will shoot up from 6.9 percent in 2000 to 22.7 percent in 2050, according to Shimasawa's estimate.

China has made a conscious effort to control its billion-plus population in a rare effort for a developing nation. But for more developed economies, the cost of having fewer children could be much more acute.

In Japan, the elderly population will account for 35.7 percent of population by 2050, up from 17.4 percent in 2000, Shimasawa said.

"The flow of money might change as the elderly use their savings. It might become more difficult to sustain industries, and companies might experience difficulties obtaining necessary capital to, say, renovate factories," he said.

Some 27.4 percent of the South Koreans will become elderly by 2050, up from 7.1 percent in 2000. For Singapore, the ratio will be 28.6 percent in 2050, up from 7.2 percent in 2000, he said.

Asia's economic miracle had been supported by an abundance of young, healthy workers, said Yasuko Hayase, an expert on population issues who lectures at several Japanese universities.

Faced with the collapse of the young population, East Asia may have to break taboos by accepting large-scale immigration.

"Workers might tend to gather in richer nations for better wages. That will take away quality workers from rural areas of poorer countries," Hayase said.

The Japanese government has called on the corporate world to look at the elderly with new eyes. Instead of the post-World War II model of lifetime employment and a comfortable retirement at age 65, the government hopes more elderly can stay on in a less formal capacity as mentors to keep the economy moving ahead.

Eun Ki-Soo, a sociology professor at the school of international studies at Seoul National University, said society would go bankrupt within 20 to 30 years unless the population problem was addressed.

"South Korea is rapidly ageing but it is not ready for the challenges," Eun said. "We must finds ways for senior citizens to contribute to society."

The social costs of caring for the elderly used to be low in Asia because families traditionally took care for their aged parents, Hayase said.

"Amid falling fertility rates in the region, we are seeing an increase in the number of nuclear family households who do not live with elders," she said.

"This means the public sector will have to carry the burden and cost of elderly care. The corporate sector might be asked to pitch in help in the form of pensions. It is not necessarily a bad idea. But that might slow down corporate activities," she said.

In less developed economies, the elderly will have to spend their savings as they would have no other way to survive.

"Lower national savings and an ageing workforce, in combination, will weaken the economic strength of the region," said Keiichiro Oizumi, economist at the Japan Research Institute.

In the end there was no choice for governments but to try to reverse the declining population, he said.

"It is a matter of human security. It is not an option, we must do this," Oizumi said. *AFP*

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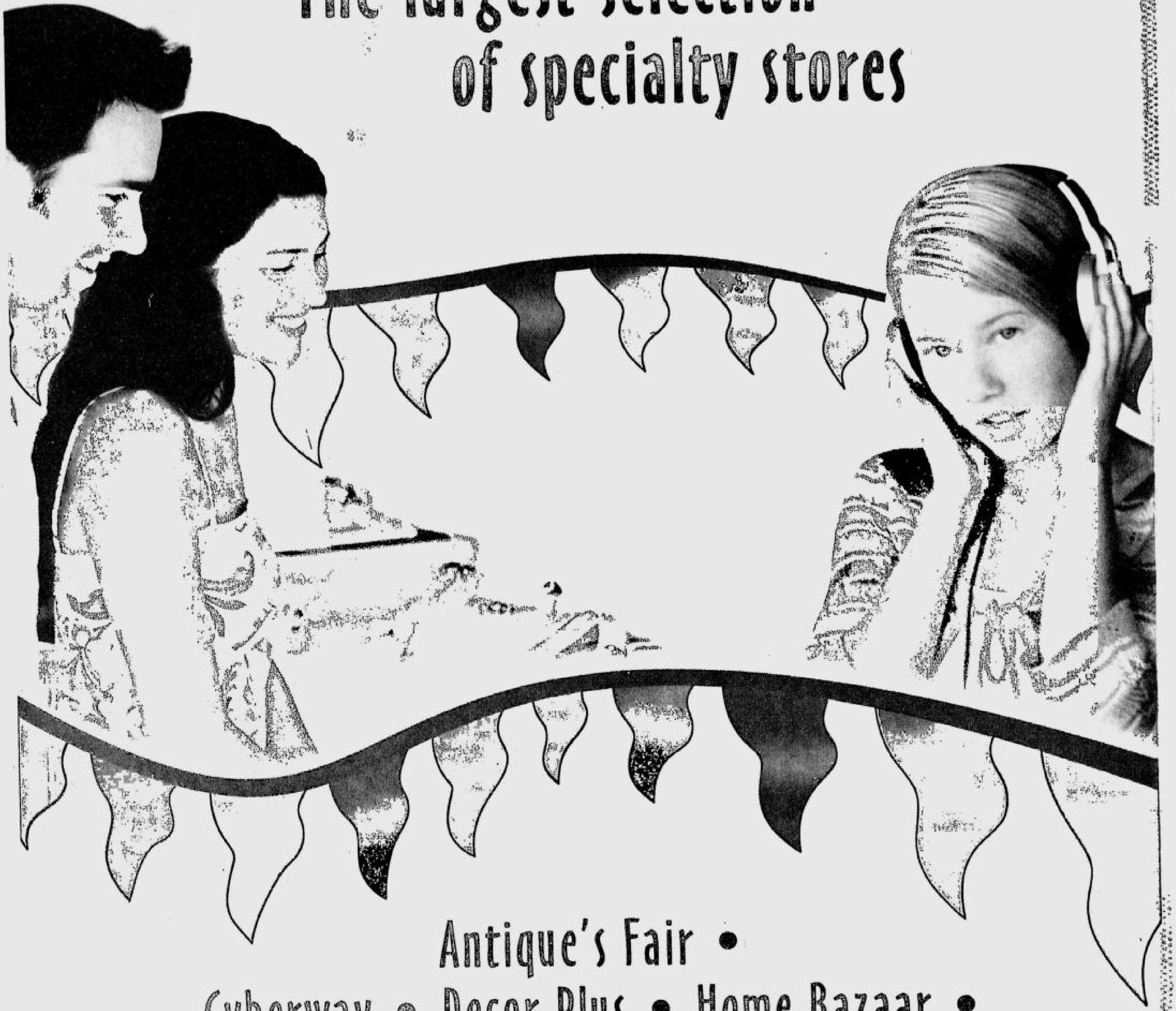

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OPINION

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Mortal blow

EDITORIAL

THE EVENTS of the past 24 hours have accelerated and reached a climax that appears to indicate that the clamor for a change in government has gathered an irreversible momentum. The rapid erosion of the institutional base of the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo was triggered by the resignation of 10 key officials, including seven members of her Cabinet, yesterday.

The 10 officials, led by the core of the President's economic team, highlighted the announcement of their resignation with an appeal to the President to "voluntarily relinquish" her office. In making the call, they emphasized that they were not making judgment on the scandals now engulfing the presidency. They were prompted to do so, they said, for the reason that "the longer the President stays in office under a cloud of doubt and mistrust, and with her style of decision-making, the greater the damage [to] the economy and the more vulnerable the fragile political situation becomes to extremists seeking to undermine our democratic life."

The resignations came as a devastating blow to the President. Those who defected represent constituencies that are crucial to her government's stability and survival. Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Trade Secretary Juan Santos, for example, were her interlocutors with the business community. Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno and Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina were her anchormen in the drive to raise the necessary revenues to fund government projects and try to wipe out the fiscal deficit. Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin represented credible management of the budget, and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Juliano Soliman represented her links to civil society.

The withdrawal of these key Cabinet members signaled the start of the disintegration of her support in two important constituencies: the business community and the bureaucracy. The withdrawal of support by the business community (or at least an influential part of it) quickly followed the defection of the President's economic management team. The Makati Business Club and the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines asked for the President's resignation. They said that the Cabinet resignations "illustrate the loss of confidence in the President and her ability to advance economic and social development programs."

The Liberal Party, of which former Education Secretary Florencio Abad was a key member, has also called for the President's resignation, following this up with a warning that it would support an impeachment motion if she would not step down. Former President Corazon Aquino has also joined the chorus urging the President to step down. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu has affirmed the loyalty of the military to the constitutional process and non-intervention in the impasse.

These developments have considerably narrowed the options of the President and leave her very little room and time for maneuver. Efforts to channel the crisis to the impeachment arena in the hope that this would save the President from resigning, face dim prospects. The pressure has increased for the President to make the hard decision of whether to step down or continue to try to take the impeachment route.

But time is fast running out. The President is clearly on the ropes. The crucial question seems to be: Which institution will deliver the mortal blow to her presidency, after her civilian constituencies have disintegrated?

It is becoming clear that, with her presidency damaged by scandals, Ms Arroyo cannot govern effectively. True, there is no huge mob howling at the gates of Malacañang. But in the last few weeks, there has been a swift and steady erosion of popular support for her administration.

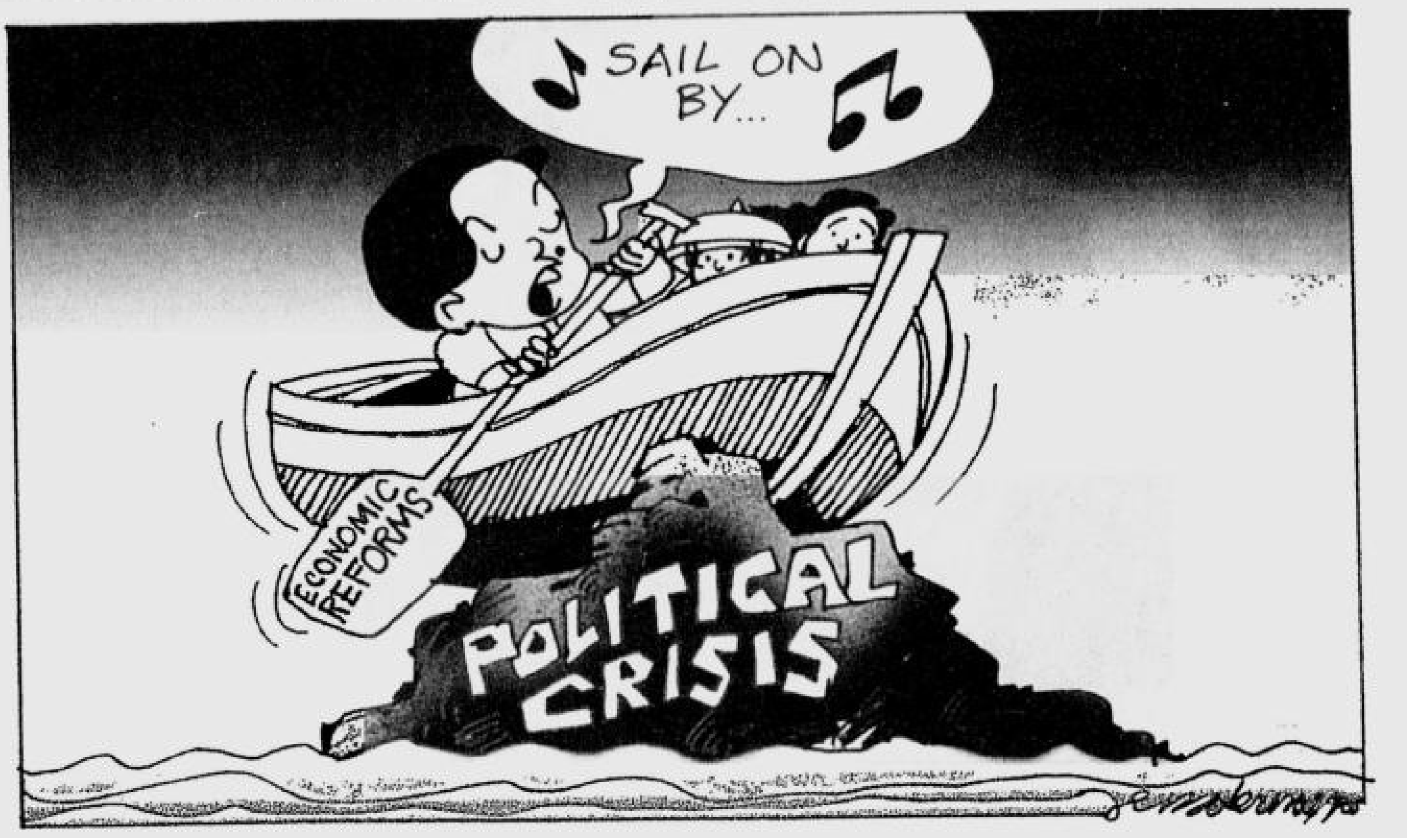
The President cannot afford to let the stalemate go on for long. She should not wait for the military to offer itself as the final arbiter in this crisis.

The challenge

FOREIGN COMMENT

IT wasn't hard to be jubilant during the Live8 concert. But now both G-8 countries' leaders and ourselves will be challenged to show whether we are willing to sacrifice anything at all for change. For many countries, debt relief means a badly needed economic freedom. But for many African countries, more basic reforms are needed. The rich countries can help with some changes. Others, the countries must carry out themselves: the battle against corruption and building institutions and democracy.

The great challenge ... is the debate on trade barriers. ... Every day, the rich countries subsidize agriculture with $1 billion. These subsidies keep many of the poorest countries from building a foundation for managing without the sporadic, alms of the rich. *Bergens Tidende (Bergen, Norway)*



Changing the House of Representatives

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

A REGULAR reader and pen pal of mine requests me to explain the term "gerrymandering" that I used in a recent article about the House of Representatives. It is the arrangement of legislative districts in such a way as to favor the election of preferred candidates (usually reelectionists) through the inclusion therein only of those areas where they expect to win regardless of the resultant shape of such districts.

Art. VI, Sec. 5(3) of our Constitution provides that "each legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact and adjacent territory." Compact means solid, contiguous in physical contact, and adjacent close by or near. Ideally, an existing district may be converted into two by dividing it down the middle, with both districts complying with the legal requirements. A scheming reelectionist may choose for his new district only those parts of the territory where he is strong although they are physically scattered or oddly shaped.

When Gov. Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts arranged for his proposed district those parts that he controlled, a legislator remarked that the territory looked like a salamander. "No," said a colleague, probably with tongue in cheek, "it's a gerrymander." The governor has since then been immortalized with that now prohibitive term against unfair political advantage.

Paul R. Mortel complains in his letter that Congress may be too improvident in the creation of more provinces and cites the proposals to divide Cebu into four separate provinces and Quezon into Quezon del Norte and Quezon del Sur. Each of these proposed provinces will constitute at least one representative district. Right now we already have 79 provinces compared to Indonesia that he says has only 27 provinces although it has a land area six times larger than ours. I might add that the population of Indonesia is 200 million while ours is only 86 million.

Besides the province, every chartered city with a population of not less than 250,000, shall have at least one representative as required by our Constitution. The province is similarly entitled regardless of its size or the number of its inhabitants.

In Tobias v. Abalos, 239 SCRA 108, the municipalities of Mandaluyong and San Juan formerly belonged to only one legislative district, but when Mandaluyong was converted into a highly urbanized city it became a new and separate legislative district. This is one way of increasing the size of the House of Representatives without a general legislative apportionment. The original membership of the chamber has grown from 198 in 1987 to 236 to date with the creation of new legislative districts and the election of the party-list representatives.

I agree with Mortel and many of our people that increasing the size of the House of Representatives will not improve its efficiency, let alone its patriotism, considering the mediocrity of most of its members. Only a few prominent representatives are salvaging the reputation, better still the notoriety, of their chamber which has demonstrated time and again that it does not deserve the nation's confidence.

Its support of criminal colleagues like Romeo Jalosjos and Mark Jimenez, its refusal to impeach the highly suspect Luz Tancangco of the Comelec, and its present publicized wrangling over the Garci tapes for the benefit of the bored public have further blemished its already soiled name. Not a few of its members are there by reason solely of political ties, family relationship, religious cultism, financial persuasions, terrorism, and other dubious credentials independent of genuine qualifications.

There is also the further expense to be incurred by the people with the addition of new members. Only recently, as many as 66 congressmen (and congresswomen) went abroad on supposedly official missions when their real purpose was tourism and shopping. These legislators flew business class and were granted a daily allowance of $300, all at public expense. Many tax evaders share the cynical but valid excuse that the taxes forcibly collected from them will only be squandered by abusive public officials.

Junkets are part of the perquisites enjoyed by the members of Congress, including those who contribute nothing to its constructive work because of their incompetence and indolence. They outnumber the qualified few who, regrettably, are infected with the stigma and scorn visited by the public on their disgraceful colleagues. Increasing the membership of the House of Representatives will only further lower their already disreputable standing in the view of their disgusted constituencies.

Changing the presidential system to the parliamentary will not necessarily enhance the quality of our public officials. Before changing our form of government, we should first cleanse and improve our public officials, beginning with the members of the House of Representatives.

Why did the 10 officials resign?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE RESIGNATION of 10 of the most respected government officials, particularly Emy Boncodin and Willy Parayno of the President's economic team, and Butch Abad of education, has to be the death blow to the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. That mass resignation was clearly designed to force her hand, so the plea that she, too, resign "for God and country" was actually unnecessary, because the act itself was enough to do maximum damage to her. It seems to have provided what Malcolm Gladwell calls the "tipping point," triggering a rush of calls for her resignation, including one from former President Cory Aquino, even as everyone is cautioning against extra-constitutional moves.

What bothers me is that, unlike others who call for her resignation, the basis for their action, per their statement, had nothing to do with the wiretap and *jueteng* controversies. They carefully said that they were not making any judgments on these issues, which is borne out by the fact that just 10 days before their resignation, the news reports had them applauding her enthusiastically after her "I am sorry" address, and they also declared 100-percent support for her.

So if not the tapes and jueteng, why are they now resigning and asking for her resignation? According to them, the core of their concerns is "the ability of our President to continue to lead and govern our country with the trust and confidence of our people...The longer the President stays in office under a cloud of doubt and mistrust, and with her style of decision-making, the greater the damage [to] the economy and the more vulnerable the fragile political situation becomes to extremists seeking to undermine our democratic life."

But how did that cloud of doubt and mistrust arise in the first place, if not because of the jueteng and wiretap issues, for which they pointed out there's a proper forum to resolve, consistent with the rule of law? Wasn't that cloud placed there because of "poisoned politics," which they also cited, but which they did not consider to be as pressing and immediate as concerns? And doesn't fairness require that there be at least an objective, independent attempt to establish the facts, and resolve doubts one way or the other, before demanding resignation?

That leaves the President's style of decision-making as the other reason why she must leave. My goodness. They lived with that style of decision-making from anywhere like one to four years, and not only seemed content with it but actually thrived in it. Dinky Soliman, one of my favorite Cabinet members, was at one point even very hurt that she was being asked to leave her post—and seemed happy that she was asked to stay, the President's style of decision-making notwithstanding.

More likely (and this is where speculation comes in), after her "I am sorry" address, they expected certain moves from the President as signs of the redoubled efforts that she had promised as part of her apology to the nation. And not only were they disappointed at her slowness, they lost hope that she was going to do so. That is certainly ample justification for their resignation. But is it any justification for asking for hers? And in a way encourage the very attempts "to exploit the situation and sow intrigue and destabilization" that they so piously "reject" in their statement?

Another question: Why did they give her only a seven-day period (from June 28, when they expressed 100-percent support after her apology, to July 5, when, per their statement, they had decided to resign) within which to show by her "redoubled efforts" that she truly meant business? Actually, given that the resignation involves 10 people, and given that they say that their decision came after a long period of reflection, this means that they gave the President more like five days. Even the opposition, her political enemies, would be embarrassed to set such a ridiculously tight deadline.

What is also bothersome is the information that Cesar Purisima took time from his busy schedule to travel to Hong Kong and meet with Vice President Noli de Castro before the mass resignation was decided upon. I don't know what took place at that meeting (Purisima promised to call me, but hadn't as of deadline), but the scuttlebutt is that his message was that the Liberal Party would support the resignation if De Castro appointed Drilon as vice president and concurrent executive secretary. This, again, may be part of "poison politics."

Objectively speaking, though, if the resigned Cabinet members are to be reappointed by De Castro should he succeed Ms Arroyo, that would reduce the uncertainty of having an unknown equation to deal with, and provide the continuity that the country so sorely needs. It would certainly reduce the costs of a resignation-succession scenario (but still leave a bad taste in the mouth). One hopes, for all our sakes, that De Castro's style of decision-making is more to their liking.

An observation and a cautionary statement. The observation: Estrada was treated better than this—he was at least impeached so he had the chance to defend himself. The cautionary statement: If people think that a presidential resignation with vice-presidential succession "is the least disruptive and painful option that can swiftly restore normalcy," think again. No such luck. Already the opposition and the extremists are making noises against De Castro.

Cry, my beloved country.

'Bakit sila nagmamadali?'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FORMER PRESIDENT Cory Aquino has asked for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo "in the spirit of humility and self-sacrifice" for the nation's sake. Ms Aquino called on GMA the other evening in the Palace to advise her of what she intended to do. I imagine that GMA told the former president that she would not resign, prompting Ms Aquino to go ahead with her plan. Her call carries weight with civil society groups and it was clear that Cabinet members who sprang from those groups were on cue, as they had resigned earlier. These include Teresita Quintos Deles, Mely Nicolas and Dinky Soliman. A total of seven Cabinet members have resigned.

The Makati Business Club could have been influenced by the resignation of members of the finance cluster of the Cabinet, led by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima. The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on the other hand, led by Donald Dee, was perceived as sticking to GMA by refraining from calling for her resignation and upholding the Constitution and duly elected authority.

* * *

When some friends, myself included, heard that Ms Aquino was going to make a statement, our reaction was to try to reach her and urge her to postpone it even for just a day so that things could clear up a bit. I sought to request Cory, through her son Noynoy, to instead use the time to gather a broader consensus among elements that ought to be heard, not just civil society, such as for instance, the representatives of the local governments, members of Congress and the bishops and clergy. I was concerned, among other things, that the resentment of local officials over not being heard could split the nation or even lead to civil war. Moreover, I felt that Vice President Noli de Castro, the constitutional successor, was not acceptable to some sectors (e.g., the group of priests Robert Reyes and Raul Enriquez of Quezon, as well as that of former UP president Francisco Nemenzo), and need to be "sold" to them first. I also argued that should GMA agree to resign, as Cory was asking, there could be a vacuum into which could rush some undesirable forces—God forbid—such as the ultra right forces.

* * *

But perhaps the most important issue against resignation is, as Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo argued over ANC, that we still don't know the entire truth about the issue of those wiretapped tapes. Even the House of Representatives, which has conducted many hearings on it, seems no clearer on the authenticity of the tapes than when it began. Moreover, the perception of those who heard the tapes in their entirety was that they could have been tampered. The question is, should the President resign on the basis of unverified issues or mere perceptions of cheating?

The case of GMA is very different from that of Erap. When the people went to the streets to withhold support from Erap, just about all the issues raised against him had been ventilated thoroughly. In GMA's case, much is still in the realm of perception.

* * *

I think Cory Aquino, whom we dearly love and respect, was ill-advised in making her precipitate call for GMA to resign. Many bishops are also saying the same thing, and apparently they won't let her influence them. They still will bat for a truth commission, which is fair enough. It would also give full opportunity for the truth to be ventilated.

* * *

The nation saw yesterday the polarization of political forces. Civil society, seven members of the Cabinet and a segment of business have withdrawn support for GMA. On the other hand, the overwhelming majority of governors and mayors, the majority of the Cabinet and of the House of Representatives, led by Speaker Jose de Venecia, are loyally sticking with her. Interestingly, the administration coalition in the Senate has split, with Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Francis Pangilinan deserting GMA, and the Wednesday Group of Nacionalista Party president Manny Villar, Ralph Recto and Joker Arroyo, as well as the Lakas senators, sticking with her. It was, in fact, quite funny to see House members in the Palace cheering GMA, while Drilon and Pangilinan were in an LP executive council meeting that called for her resignation.

* * *

Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza put what seems to be a frontline issue in the current controversy regarding the position of some groups that the President should resign. Atienza said the complaint of many local government units across the country is that they are always included in the elections, but excluded from the removal of officials. This complaint is being echoed by many local officials as the political turmoil in Manila escalates. The LGUs resent the fact that governments seem to rise and fall depending on pressure from Manila militants alone, while the voices of the provinces are not heard at all. This time, it's the LGUs that continue to support GMA in a big way even though her support from the Manila groups seems to have eroded. It's clear that the LGUs no longer want to be relegated to the sidelines.

* * *

Mayor Atienza questioned reports that the LP had decided to ask for GMA's resignation. He stressed that he is the party's chair (Drilon is its president) but he did not participate in that decision made by only 40 party officials and members. Atienza said that the call for GMA's resignation was not a party stand, as it was only an "advisory vote" of the executive council made during the first of what was supposed to be a series of consultative meetings. Stressing that he was dissociating himself from that stand, Atienza said the resignation call was "too serious" to be left in the hands of only 40 people and that party members across the nation, who comprise the majority of the LP, should have been consulted. *Bakit sila masyadong nagmamadali?* queried the mayor. It looks like the LP is headed for a split.

The tipping point?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HAS the brewing "Gloriagate" crisis reached its tipping point? Events gathered momentum yesterday, with the announced resignation of 10 Cabinet members and senior officials, the calls made by civil society organizations and business groups for her to resign, similar calls made by political parties including the Liberal Party, and finally the statement made by former President Cory Aquino asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to make the "supreme sacrifice."

Previously, the President may have hoped to ride out the storm, what with her political allies circling the wagons around her and the core of her constituency—the middle-class and civil society groups—still giving her the benefit of the doubt. But yesterday, that wall of support was breached, with the first indication of weakness—the resignation of a good part of her Cabinet—followed by a slippage in support among key sectors.

If I understand it right, the common concern raised by the various statements was not her guilt or innocence in relation to the "Gloria-Garci" tapes. The civil society statement, in fact, still calls for the convening of an independent fact-finding commission. What concerned them more were, as the Cabinet members' statement put it, "the issues of leadership and credibility—the ability of our President to continue to lead and govern our country with the trust and confidence of our people."

The President, to be sure, is not taking things easy, or allowing her defenses to further crumble. A measure of her determination to hold back the tide was her public statement Thursday evening "demanding" the resignation of her entire Cabinet, purportedly so she could speed up her reform agenda. But by that time, news of the "Cabinet 10's" collective resignation had already spread, so the President's statement was commonly viewed as a mere preemptive ploy.

* * *

IT wasn't just the number of Cabinet secretaries who quit and called for the President's resignation that was significant. It was also who the Cabinet members were. Of foremost concern must be the departure of so many economic managers, with the exception of Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri. Most interesting was the decision to step down made by Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno, whose moves to reform the tax body and go after tax evaders had been met with general approval and resulted in unprecedented revenue gains. The revamp of the country's tax collection system, along with the imposition of the VAT, it must be noted, had been touted as the centerpieces of the President's economic reform agenda.

Also worth noting is the resignation of Cabinet secretaries most identified with civil society: Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, Peace Process Adviser Ging Quintos Deles, Secretary Imelda Nicolas of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, even Budget Secretary Emy Boncodin and Education Secretary Butch Abad.

These Cabinet members had been under tremendous pressure from their constituencies in the last month or so. To those who urged them to resign posthaste, their reply was that by remaining in the Cabinet, they were ensuring that the President heard voices other than those of traditional politicians and representatives of vested interests. Apparently, they had reached a point Tuesday, when they collectively decided to resign, when they realized that not only were their voices being muted or ignored, but that the reform agenda they had helped craft was being jettisoned in the President's desire to remain in power.

* * *

THERE were those who had hoped that during her "second and last term," President Arroyo would use the next six years to seriously pursue reforms, even if it meant displeasing campaign contributors and political allies. After all, she could no longer run for reelection, so there was no point in appeasing patrons or allowing cronies to claim their share of spoils.

Unfortunately, the reform train swiftly went off track. As the civil society statement noted: "As a country, we have lost hope that she will put genuine reforms over her personal and political interests. After all, she has had four years to have made these reforms, and she has not."

Analysts had already pointed out that even if the President would manage to stay in office after the dust of controversy shall have settled, she would no longer be able or willing to pursue the reform agenda. She would want to keep it "business as usual," afraid of alienating powerful sectors in her desire to stay in Malacañang. And the forces of vested interests would gain the upper hand.

As a former government official put it to me: "See what happened. With the 10 gone, who do we see on TV defending the President? Ronnie Puno!" Indeed, the alleged architect of *dagdag-bawas*, no less! And calling to doubt the patriotism of the "Cabinet 10"! Will wonders never cease?

* * *

IT'S difficult at this point to predict just how the President will react to yesterday's gathering storm. Indications are that she will hang tough, and her minions have all gone out of their way to muster declarations of support. She doesn't seem to be the sort to slink away from a fight, although she has always proven to be a canny operator. During the tumultuous anti-Erap rallies, she held her own counsel up until the very last minute, knowing that even if she kept quiet she stood to either remain at her post or step into power.

But GMA has also shown vulnerability to adverse events. During her first run for the presidency, she quickly abandoned her candidacy (and her running mate and party) and agreed to run as Joe de Venecia's running mate after reports of her alleged ownership of a building in San Francisco came out in this paper.

Would that in this instance, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will use prudence instead of pride in deciding her next step.

Fiestas of yesteryears

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IT was quite common that the agents of the latest fashion would be none other than the phalanx of clothes-conscious protégés and servants that all the great houses kept. They would manipulate scissors (the same ones used for haircuts or even for shaving) to fashion a dress for their mistress using measurements taken with strings of *buri* or *balangot*.

These servants would also play the *bandurria* (Spanish lute) or the flute, dance and sing the *kundiman*, skills that the masters would exploit when tedium or boredom set in. They also learned the skills of cooking and the condiments needed during fiestas from special cooks hired for the occasion.

It was common to see home-made gowns for important occasions made of simple merino, alpaca and fine silk from China, striped or with squares, as well as frocks, coats, trousers and jackets. For ordinary wear, a light jacket of linen from Canton or, better still, cotton and simple *rayadillo* were chosen. Trousers of the same materials or cloth from the Ilocos or the Visayas or of silk from China were available. A wide necktie of *jusi* or *piña* completed the ensemble. Their shirts had a very finely pleated front, others had pretty lace fronts, with a strip in the center showing off expensive sets of buttons of diamonds or pearls or emeralds.

Both for provincial feasts or at intimate parties, costumes tended to be in a style that was half-Chinese and half-native to the country. These gowns were in showy combinations of rich China silk, delicate transparent *piña* and expensive linen from Canton. Shoes were substituted by slippers or step-ins of silk with decorations of sequins, gold thread and multicolored yarns.

The young people of that society of yesteryears, accompanied by their chaperones, would attend fiestas in the pretty suburbs of Manila and even nearby towns, ascending and descending the stairs of different houses, adding to the merriment that reigned in the homes and streets. The young people would laugh seeing the antics and contortions of the dancers during quadrilles, the inconstancy of the steps of fake Negritos or Moros and Christians in simulated duels with swords to the sound of *zarabanda*. The young girls would take pleasure in the voluptuous *kundimans* that they would sing to the accompaniment of the harp or the guitar.

For decorations, linen clothes or canvas with caricatures representing persons or scenes, real or imagined, were hung from window sills of the houses.

So that the towns would present a well-lighted and extraordinary aspect, arches of bamboo called *calascas* were constructed at the entrances and exits of the streets. These little fences were decorated with embossed cloths or leaves, adorned with small colored lanterns, banners and streamers. On the main street, they would construct huge arches at various intervals.

With enough notice given about the coming festivities, every one in town had time to prepare. They would replenish their pantries with the best the market offered. Walls would be removed to enlarge rooms into salons, and furniture and doors would be re-varnished. Corners of rooms were livened up with jardiniers and plants and the house painted. Cornices were decorated with showy fringes and doors with transparent curtains that were usually kept at the bottom of camphor chests during the year. Whether rich or poor, people tried their best without regard for cost. Money was borrowed at high interest to finance all these festivities and no one seemed to worry about repayment.

On the *caidas* (landing from the *saguan* before ascending to the main floor) of the houses, from the eve of the fiesta until the day after, could be seen long tables covered with cold cuts, *lechon* (that indispensable Filipino party fare), pastas, sweets, *quesos de bola* (passed through cold water to soften them), and cups of cocoa. Those who wanted to could sit at table and eat, whether they had been invited formally or not. Young relatives or the maids and sometimes the daughters themselves would traverse the living room every so often, offering the guests cigars, cigarettes and *buyos* well prepared on silver or lacquered trays. A little boy followed them with a lighted stick, offering to light the cigars or cigarettes to those who wanted to smoke. The gentle insistence of the girls was such that, whether you smoked or not, you ended up with pocketfuls of tobacco by the time you left.

When night fell the balls would begin in houses inclined to this entertainment, prolonged if the owner was enthusiastic and liberal with his money. The fiestas would continue for three or four days in order to take advantage of the many programs and merrymaking of the feast. These excesses in honor of the goddess of the dance (Terpsichore) naturally had intervals and moments of rest as well as for enjoyment of other amusements such as pilgrimages to a shrine and *meriendas* throughout the neighborhoods of the town or bathing in nearby rivers for hours and hours, frolicking in the crystalline waters. *("Ilustracion Filipina," 28 May 1892)*

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Faith and reason

YOUNG BLOOD

Antonio C. Briza

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FAITH is reasonable, while science, to some extent, is founded on faith. These are two conclusions I made after pondering the relationship between faith and science.

It was a "mathematical novel" I read recently that influenced me to undertake the exercise. The book, entitled "Fermat's Enigma," was written by Simon Singh, a Ph.D. in particle physics at the University of Cambridge. It tells about the epic quest to solve Fermat's Last Theorem, regarded as the greatest mathematical problem of all times. I could say that the exercise led me to some rather startling discoveries.

First, not everything in science has a proof. In fact, the whole of math, an abstract branch of science, is founded on statements that are so fundamental that they do not have proofs! These statements, called axioms, are either self-evidently true or else are assumed to be true.

Persons who espouse the philosophy of scientism only accept assertions that are supported by scientific proof. For this reason, they reject dogmas of faith. "Prove it to me!" they demand. "I could prove to you this mathematical theorem, can you prove to me that dogma in a similar way?"

But their challenge is empty of meaning, for not everything in science has a proof.

Second, scientific proof always contains at least a tiny element of doubt. Singh explains: "Scientific theory is merely considered highly likely based on observation and perception, both of which are fallible and provide only approximations to the truth. Science is operated according to the judicial system. A theory is assumed to be true if there is enough evidence to prove it 'beyond all reasonable doubt.'"

As example, he related scientists' continual search for the basic building blocks of the universe—from the atoms of the 19th century up to present research on quarks. He shows how one theorem could be refined by another or, at times, completely replaced.

Singh then explains that mathematical proofs, on the other hand, are built on axioms and logic, such that, "if the axioms are correct and the logic is flawless, then the conclusion will be undeniable."

Knowledge from math then is more stable than those from science. This is because math, unlike science, is not subject to the same level of inaccuracy that comes from the observation of matter. Instead, knowledge is abstracted from matter.

But knowledge from faith is even more stable than knowledge from math. It comes neither from observation nor abstraction of matter. It comes directly from God, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

Third, math admits it cannot prove everything. The mathematician Kurt Gödel has proven that there are statements (apart from axioms) that math can neither prove nor disprove.

Now, this is very interesting. If math, the strictest of all branches of science, admits it cannot prove everything, then it follows that science, to a greater extent, cannot prove everything. Thus, the foundation of scientism crumbles!

But even without Gödel's discovery, we should have arrived at the same conclusion. Man does not have a perfect knowledge of himself, even from a biological point of view. Mapping out the human genome is just the beginning of an enormous biological puzzle. So could he dare claim that he could explain everything in the universe?

Finally, a great part of science is founded on faith. In order to prove Fermat's Last Theorem, Andrew Wiles had to rely on the contributions of many great mathematicians before him. He did not try to prove again all of their theorems. Instead, he believed that their theorems were correct. He placed his faith, his human faith, in them.

Faith is an assent of the will to accept truths from another by virtue of his authority. Much of science is founded on faith. Many of us, scientists included, accept Einstein's theory of relativity because of his authority as a physicist and not because we understand his proof. But if we can put our faith in Einstein who was mortal and fallible, why can we not place it in God, who is immortal, infallible and the source of all authority?

It is not my intention to discredit science and math. The world has made significant progress because of them. But we cannot be deceived into thinking that they provide the answer to all questions. There are many questions that can only be answered by God. In fact, He has already answered some of them through the truths He has revealed.

We have to accept these truths even though we may not completely understand them. They are not unreasonable; rather, they are beyond reason. They are true not because we understand them but because they were revealed by God, the fullness of truth Himself.

Antonio C. Briza, 28, is a computer programmer and a math enthusiast. He is part of an NGO that trains university students into becoming competent professionals with firm Christian values.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

United States' call

"We surely hope the Philippines can move up. If there's no progress, then there will have to be discussions about how to deal with that within the US government."

—US Embassy's political counselor Joe Novak on RP being in danger of losing US aid

Believing

"It's a very difficult enemy to conquer when the people don't believe you anymore."

—Lingayen-Dagupan prelate Archbishop Oscar Cruz on the scandal-besieged Arroyo administration

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More than impropriety

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's admission that she talked to a Comelec official before her proclamation raises a key issue that Filipinos must grapple with. It is not one of mere impropriety, as her allies would have us believe. Neither is it of stability or the need for sobriety. The issue is, plainly, one of right and wrong, and what is to be done in the face of wrongdoing.

Ms Arroyo asked us to forgive her. But if the President were to be exonerated by a public apology, what basis would there be to charge the Comelec official she conversed with, and the others with whom this Comelec official collaborated to carry out questionable, if not criminal acts?

Some argue that the legitimacy of Ms Arroyo's victory is nonetheless unquestionable, that she would have won anyway. This assertion is now open to debate.

Others say there is no alternative leader. Again, this is an open question.

Still others argue that the instability that would arise from a change of president would be disastrous for the nation. But is the instability caused by the President's wrongdoing not disastrous enough?

A President incapable of distinguishing between mere impropriety and grave wrongdoing should not lead. Ms Arroyo must step down from office.

By stepping down, the message to all, most especially our youth, is clear: dishonesty is unacceptable. Dishonesty is wrong. No public official who is dishonest should remain in office. Dishonest officials must be accountable for their actions. "Sorry" is not enough.

By remaining in office, Ms Arroyo's message is the opposite: it pays to be dishonest; just apologize and all is forgiven.

Worse, there are indications of a cover-up of the wrongdoing at the highest level. As evidence of the cover-up emerges, Ms Arroyo's position will become increasingly untenable.

Much has been said about the need to respect constitutional processes. The truth is, far too many Filipinos have lost faith not just in our leaders but in our institutions.

The Comelec has no credibility; so is the legislature; and the judiciary has failed to deliver justice especially to the poor and powerless. A church that preaches sobriety but remains silent in the face of patently immoral public acts will lose its reason for being. Businessmen who value profits and market stability over what is a clear case of misgovernance will soon lose both. And civil society leaders who cannot condemn wrongdoing by the country's highest officials isolate themselves from the majority for whom hunger and basic survival are daily fare.

The people cannot wait for the outcome of a fact-finding commission, which would take a year or so while Ms Arroyo remains in office.

We repeat, Ms Arroyo must step down. This is the first and necessary step in the peaceful transition to a restructuring of our institutions.

—ZENEIDA Q. AVANCEÑA,
president,
CARMEN I. DIOKNO, treasurer,
The Diokno Foundation,
jwd_foundation@pidro.com

Obstinate as the Pharaoh of Moses' time

IT is sad to note that the top leaders of our country cannot see eye to eye. The people are looking up to them for solutions to the many problems the nation faces, but they do not even know the real cause of why the country is plagued with so many hardships. Instead of getting their act together, they keep on bickering with one another. We fear that, later on, all Filipinos will carry the stigma of the scandals that are being given prominence in Philippine newspapers.

May those who are in the top leadership of the nation, from the President down to the senators and the congressmen, stop throwing "bad eggs" at one another and begin to work sincerely for the Filipino people. If they would only listen to the Ultimate Leader, we would be a much better nation. God has given a promise for the Philippines, but it will never be fulfilled if our top leaders don't have the heart to forgive one another. They are the ones pulling the nation down.

We have leaders but they do not know what leadership is all about. I appeal to them, please look into your hearts that God may be merciful toward you. Do not be as obstinate as the Pharaoh during the time of Moses, so that He will not judge you.

—MA. ELEANOR LERIO,
elylerio@yahoo.com

LETTERS

Troubled country needs sober, objective reports

I HAVE observed that since the "Gloriatapes" scandal erupted, the INQUIRER has been acting like a mouthpiece of the political opposition. I do not expect a pro-Gloria stance, just an objective and sober reporting of events.

For the past weeks, its front-page headlines have undertones that scream: Gloria Resign! Even its photos (e.g., in the July 1 issue) are subliminal "GMA-resign" messages such as the photo of an anti-GMA demo, which in truth only had a thousand people in attendance.

Is it the INQUIRER's editorial policy to support regime change through popular uprising or to abide by legal processes? Is it the newspaper's policy to take sides or to stay neutral? Is it its policy to promote sobriety or to ignite emotions?

The INQUIRER may think that it is doing the country a favor by being "nationalistic" and "objective." Think again and try to do an honest review. I personally think the INQUIRER has been subjective and probably too keen on selling more copies of its newspaper.

Our country is in trouble. Please help in creating an environment where we can contemplate our personal and collective options with sober and objective reports.

—ALLAN ALMEDA,
jaal_manila@yahoo.com

Lost moral ascendancy to govern

"MARK it on stone, I will show the power and determination to uphold democracy and guide the country in the right direction."

With this Independence Day message, President Macapagal-Arroyo tried to pretend to be a leader who still has the moral ascendancy to govern and lead the Filipino people. It is pure ignorance for someone to believe her.

The taint of corruption—this time brought about by the *jueteng* scandal—is not new with the Arroyo administration. Since Day One of the administration, it has been plagued by corruption—the P1.4-billion Peace Bond deal, the $470-million Impsa power deal, the P1.1-billion Macapagal Boulevard scam and the First Gentleman's Jose Pidal account, to name a few. In 2000, the Philippine ranked 69th out of 90 countries in terms of corruption. But in 2004, it was the 11th most corrupt in the list of 146 countries.

After four years in office, the Arroyo administration has not brought economic relief but more suffering and worsening poverty to the people. Her globalization program did not generate the millions of jobs she promised but higher unemployment and job insecurity. Prices of basic commodities and services are spiraling. The wages of workers and government employees are not enough to sustain a decent life for their families.

Instead of increasing the budget for basic social services, Ms Arroyo has prioritized foreign debt payment. She has raised the value-added tax.

Under this administration, repression in Philippine politics is more evident. There have been at least 300 political killings since 2001. According to Gabriela, from January to March 15, 2005 alone, there have been 100 cases of human rights violations affecting 23,252 victims in 91 communities.

Militarization and human rights violations in rural areas are becoming an ordinary occurrence, particularly in areas targeted for large-scale mining projects, such as Mindoro, Samar, Surigao, Zamboanga del Norte and Campostela Valley.

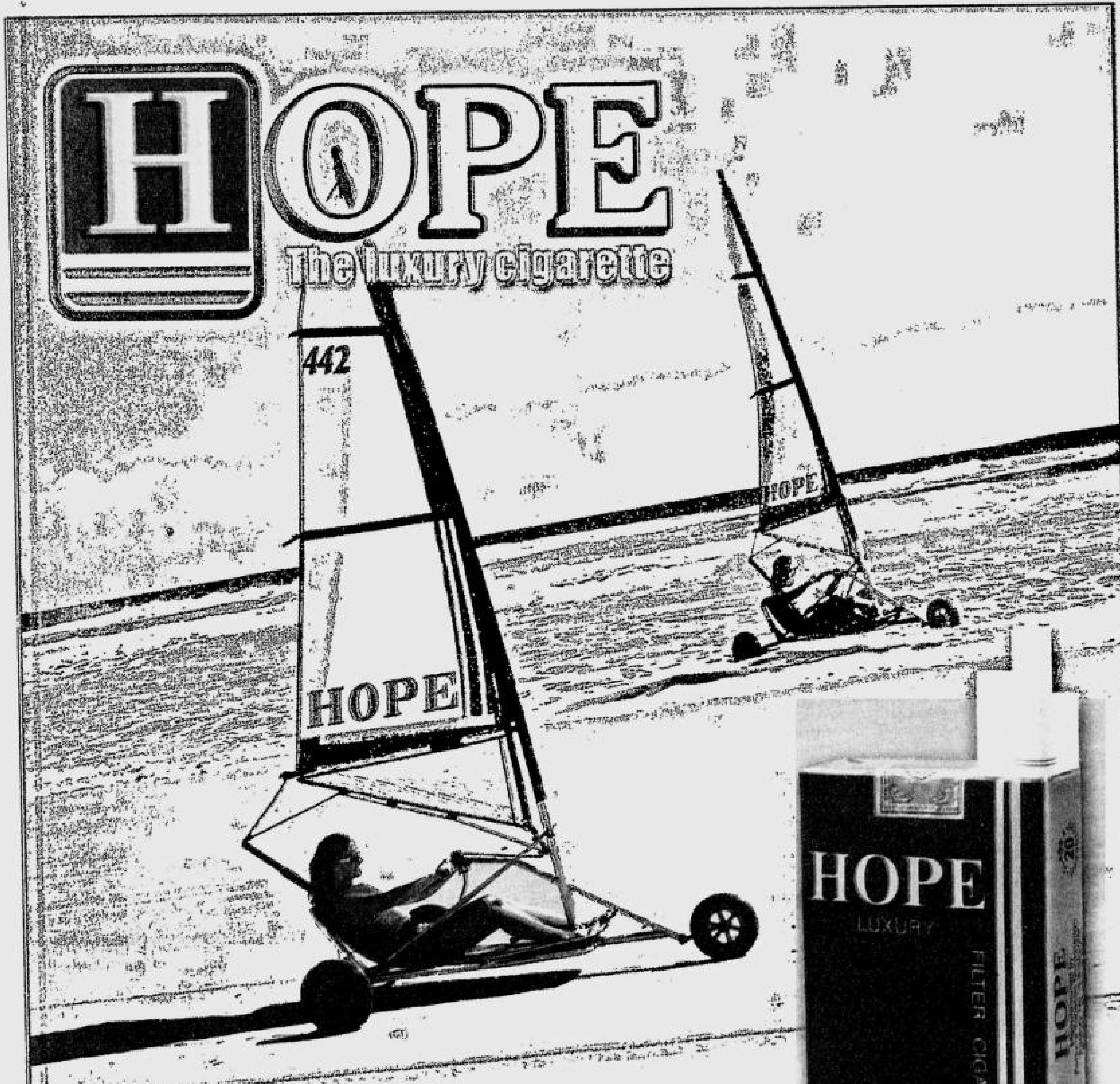
Media workers are also being harassed and killed. The New York City-based Committee to Protect Journalists branded the Philippines as the "most murderous country for journalists" given its record of more than 60 media practitioners killed since 1986.

The recent resignation of top government officials, like PCGG's Haydee Yorac, and NLRC's Roy Señeres, are indications of a shaky political leadership. Grumblings among young military officers and ordinary soldiers and coup rumors indicate discontent in the ranks of the military.

It is not surprising for the President's popularity rating to plunge to its lowest. Widespread protest actions are becoming more frequent in urban centers. In rural areas, the armed offensives of revolutionary forces are escalating.

To the President, *itaga mo sa bato* (mark it on stone), the people are fed up and they will show you the way out of Malacañang before your term ends.

—CLEMENTE BAUTISTA,
Kalikasan-People's Network
for the Environment,
26 Matulungin St.,
Barangay Central, Quezon City



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True democrat, freedom fighter

ALLOW me to reply to the published statement of former Sen. Rene Saguisag that former President Diosdado Macapagal did nothing during the dark years of martial law to help Ninoy Aquino. (PDI, 6/26/05) The sweeping denunciation of the former president, who also headed the Constitutional Convention (Con-Con) in 1972, is inaccurate and unfair.

I was underground when martial law was declared. The opposition then was fragmented and demoralized. Ninoy and many of the leaders were already jailed by Marcos. The press and Congress had been closed down. But Macapagal surreptitiously gathered a group of about 40 political leaders—former congressmen and members of the Con-Con who were opposed to Marcos—to figure out how to organize a coherent anti-martial law democratic opposition.

Macapagal said that one of us must organize the democratic opposition in the United States to campaign with the Filipino community and the US Congress for the cutting of economic assistance to the Marcos dictatorship. As there were no volunteers from the people in the room, Macapagal asked me to do the job, noting that I was young and a bachelor. I eluded a shoot-to-kill order and, after a *matrimonia consciencia* ceremony with my fiancée, Cecile Guidote, I escaped in November 1972 and went on exile in the Unites States.

On June 23, 1973, we formally organized the democratic opposition in the United States with Sen. Raul Manglapus. To honor Ninoy who was brutally slain in 1983, I founded years later the Ninoy Aquino Movement, dubbed by the American media as the biggest and best organized opposition movement overseas.

We were successful in our campaign to cut economic and military assistance to the Marcos dictatorship, even as we exposed the violations of human rights, as well as the corruption of the Marcos government—including the investments of ill-gotten wealth made by the Marcos family in the United States—through the American media.

In 1979, the democratic opposition in the United States invited Macapagal to address the Washington Press Club, which he did, accompanied by his daughter Gloria Macapagal acting as his assistant.

The speech he delivered was one of the most publicized criticisms of the martial law regime. It helped strengthen the anti-martial law forces and clarified among Filipino communities in the United States that Marcos was opposed widely—not only by communist revolutionaries but also by a broad segment of the community represented by public figures like former President Macapagal. With that speech, Macapagal placed himself squarely as a critic and opponent of the Marcos regime.

He may not have been a full-time unrelenting oppositionist to the dictatorship. But, with my experience with him in the Con-Con and in later years, I have every reason to believe that in his heart, he was a patriot, a true democrat and a freedom fighter.

—HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ,
Unit 1203 Gotesco Tower B,
N. Lopez St., Ermita, Manila

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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From Some of UE's Celebrated "Warriors,"
This Battlecry as the 68th UAAP Season Opens:

GO FIGHT, UE RED WARRIORS!

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Associate Justice, Supreme Court
UE AB 1956, with High Honors;
UE LLB 1960,
Magna Cum Laude
and Class Valedictorian

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Senator, former Manila Mayor
UE BBA 1951, UE LLB 1963

Mrs. CORAZON S. DE LA PAZ
President-CEO, Social Security System
UE BBA 1960, Magna Cum Laude;
1st Placer, 1960 CPA Board Exams

Mr. GUILLERMO N. CARAGUE
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Member, United Nations
Board of Auditors
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"On behalf of the entire University of the East family, I wish our Red Warriors the best of luck this 2005 season of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

Make our Alma Mater proud!"

Hon. MANUEL "NOLI" L. DE CASTRO
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Editorial Consultant-Columnist,
Philippine Daily Inquirer
UE BBA 1952

Mr. RIZALINO S. NAVARRO
Executive Vice Chairman-CEO, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.
UE BBA 1958, Cum Laude;
2nd Placer, 1959
CPA Board Exams

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No. 1 Placer, May-June 2005
Dental Board Exams
UE DMD 2005

Dr. KAREN L. NIELSEN
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Atty. ROMULO B. MACALINTAL
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2 town cop chiefs axed for 'jueteng'

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The regional director of the Calabarzon police yesterday ordered the sacking of two police chiefs in the region after anti-illegal gambling operatives arrested suspected *jueteng cabos* (bet collectors) in their areas.

Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza promptly relieved Senior Insp. Roger Fuentes of the Pagbilao, Quezon municipal police station and Chief Insp. Jonathan Tangonan of the Padre Garcia, Batangas police station from their posts.

Versoza's decision came after elements of the Camp Crame-based Anti-Illegal Gambling Special Operations Task Force (AIG-SOTF) arrested two bet collectors in Barangay Del Carmen, Pagbilao on Wednesday noon.

Bet collectors for the illegal numbers game known as EZ2 or "loteng" were also arrested in Padre Garcia, Batangas last week.

Senior Insp. Fernando Reyes III will replace Fuentes while Supt. Jojo Pumida will take over Tangonan's post.

In a memorandum, Versoza said he received a telephone call from Chief Supt. Florante Baguio, AIG-SOTF chief, immediately after the group's operations in Pagbilao town.

Fuentes received his award from President Macapagal-Arroyo as one of recognized heroes of Patrol 177.

But yesterday, the police officer was grieving over his fate after he was booted out as Pagbilao police station chief after two suspected *jueteng* collectors were arrested in his area of jurisdiction on Wednesday.

"I was surprised why they kicked me out when I was the one who informed the members of the task force about the impending *jueteng* operation in my area," Fuentes told the INQUIRER.

He said when concerned citizens informed him through his cell phone that *jueteng* operations would soon resume in Pagbilao, he immediately contacted the anti-jueteng task force and relayed to them the information.

"As a matter of fact, I was with the task force during the operation and I was the one who filed the case against the suspects," he said.

Versoza said Fuentes and Tangonan's relief was "pursuant to the one-strike policy of the higher headquarters."

However, Fuentes made it clear that he was not inclined to contest his relief.

"That's a legitimate order, I have to follow it without question," he said.

Versoza said, "this office once again reminded all field commanders to intensify their efforts on anti-illegal gambling and will not hesitate to apply the one-strike policy."

Despite the arrests, Versoza reiterated that the region remains free from any "organized *jueteng* operations."

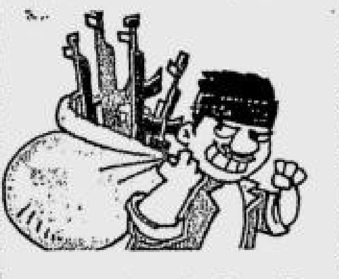
Marlon Ramos and Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ROUNDUP

Suspected Sayyaf member held

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A suspected member of the Abu Sayyaf, who was reportedly involved in the abduction and beheading of Claretian missionary Fr. Rhoel Gallardo and several other victims in March 2000, was arrested in Basilan on Tuesday, the military said July 6. Brig. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade based in Basilan, identified the suspect as Abshar Ismael alias Abu Arsad. Ferrer said Abu Arsad, who faces kidnapping charges before the Basilan Regional Trial Court, was arrested by soldiers under the Military Intelligence Group in Barangay Carbon in Malamawi Island. "He is now under tactical interrogation by the MIG," he told the INQUIRER. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NPA seizes firearms, NDF says



MALAYBALAY CITY—The National Democratic Front (NDF) said New People's Army (NPA) rebels seized several high-powered firearms during a raid on a poultry farm guarded by soldiers in Barangay Dalwangan here on Thursday. Cesar Renerio, spokesperson of the NDF in Northcentral Mindanao, said that aside from the firearms, NPA rebels belonging to the Rexan Perez Command also took night-vision goggles and a global positioning radar system. The Army confirmed the attack but said no soldier was guarding the poultry farm at that time. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

1st Igan Badminton Challenge

THE IGAN Foundation will hold the 1st Igan Badminton Challenge today and tomorrow to help raise funds for the Patients Aid Program of the Philippines Cerebral Palsy Inc. The foundation, a brainchild of TV host Arnold Clavio, aims to help children suffering from life-threatening diseases get proper medical care and support. Through its sports activities, the foundation is able to raise funds that help augment the medical expenses and give care and meaning to these children's lives. For details, donors may call the foundation at telephone numbers 367-0181 or 367-4611.

C. Falcotelo; 70

BARCELONA, Sorsogon—A farmer who had sired three doctors and a judge died while serving as the incumbent mayor of this town, which he had served for more than 20 years. Mayor Celso Falcotelo died of heart attack June 24 at the Sts. Peter and Paul Hospital in Sorsogon City. He was the oldest mayor in the province at age 70. Falcotelo started as municipal councilor in the 1980s, serving for four consecutive terms and topping the elections two times before becoming municipal mayor in 1998. He was on his third and last term at the time of his death.

Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Guidelines on land conversion proposed

LUCENA CITY—Quezon board member Eladio Pasamba has proposed an ordinance that will provide guidelines on land reclassification from agricultural to non-agricultural. He said the widespread conversion of agricultural lands in the province into residential and commercial uses is affecting the province's fast growing fruit and vegetable production. He warned that the positive agricultural index would not be sustained if the govern- ent allowed indiscriminate land conversion.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

omb threat at Legazpi university

EGAZPI CITY—Students and employees of Aquinas University of gazpi were evacuated after a woman caller warned of a bomb threat in e university's College of Education housed at the St. Dominic Building. e call was received at around 9:20 a.m. Wednesday. A combined team Legazpi City police, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Explo- ve Ordnance Unit (EOU) and the Aviation Security Group arrived in the ea about 25 minutes after the call. The operatives, which brought in a mb-sniffing dog, sealed off the area but did not find any bomb. The area s cleared by the police at around 11:45 a.m. after their search yielded explosives.

Leo Martin Ganace, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

US pins hopes MILF, gov't would end war

COTABATO CITY—The United States continues to hope that the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) would finally be able to strike a peace agreement this year, Scott Bellard, deputy chief of mission at the US Embassy in Manila, said.

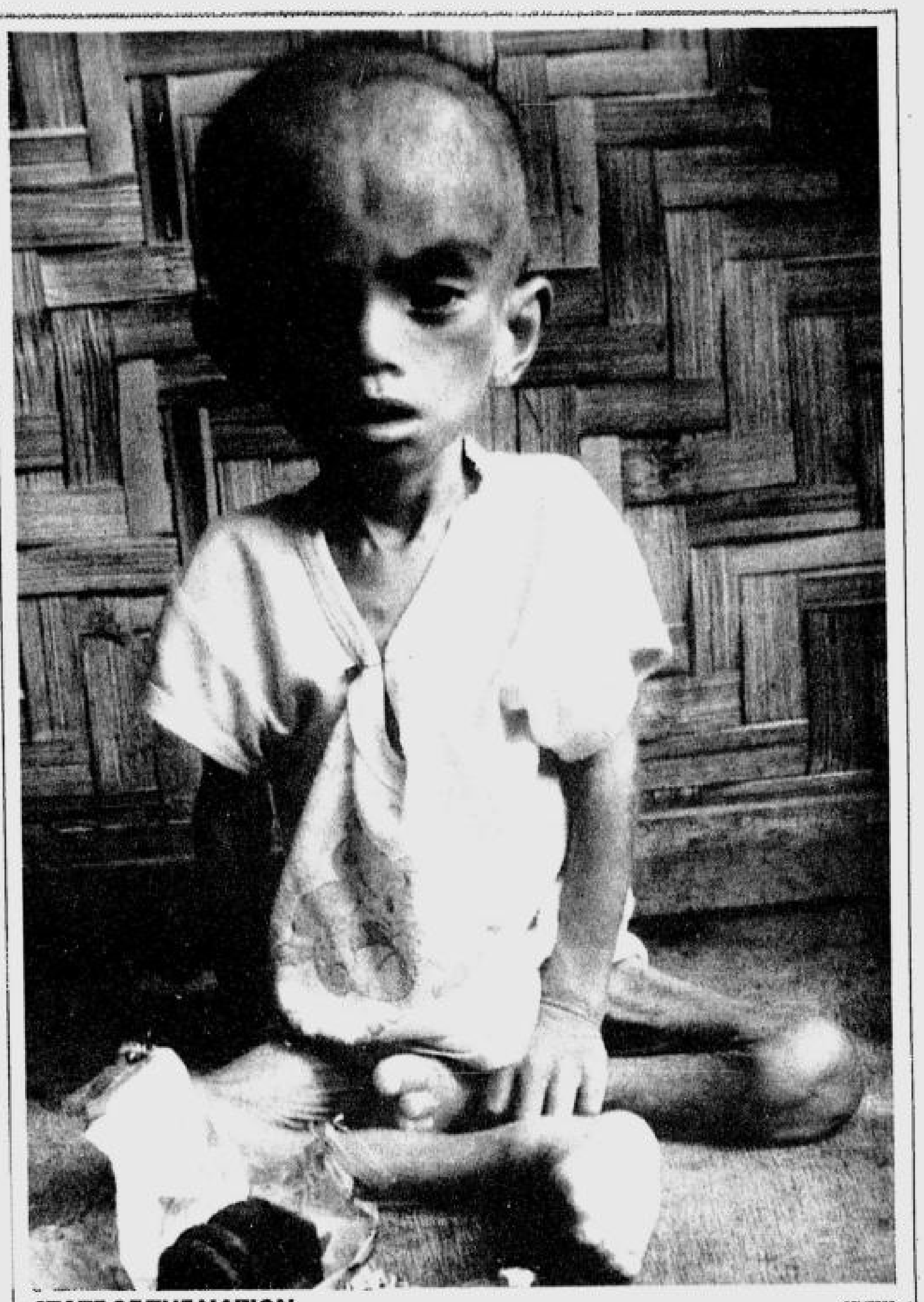
Government and MILF negotiators were set to hold another round table discussion in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia later this month.

Bellard said on Thursday that only a peace agreement between the largest separatist group in Mindanao could pave the way for more development aid package aimed at improving the lives of the people in the Southern Philippines.

He cited the success of programs for former combatants of the Moro National Liberation Front, which the United States Agency for International Development (USAid), has been undertaking.

The MNLF signed a peace deal with the government in 1996.

"We hope to undertake a similar program for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front once the MILF and the government of the Philippines are able to reach a peace accord, which we hope will be soon," Bellard said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



STATE OF THE NATION REUTERS
A severely malnourished child stares as he waits to be fed lunch in an impoverished area in the western part of Zamboanga City.

Aetas say Army offensive starving them

FLORIDABLANCA, Pampanga—Military operations launched to rescue a Philippine Air Force officer from the hands of suspected New People's Army rebels have caused Aeta residents here to go hungry, a tribal chief told the INQUIRER.

"My people have not been allowed to venture into the forests as the operations went. We understand why this needs to be done but we need food now," Romeo Bacani, barangay captain of Mawakat, said on Thursday.

It was in that mountain village, somewhere in Sitio Uno Malinta near the border of Zambales, where Maj. Neptune Eliquin was abducted on July 2.

Eliquin is an aviation engineer assigned to the 355th engineering wing of the PAF based in Basa Air Base in Barangay San Jose here.

Brig. Gen. Jose Nano, chief of the PAF's Air Logistics Command, said Eliquin, based on recent information he received, is still alive and is being held captive by the rebels.

Nano said Eliquin belongs to a non-combat unit and should be freed unharmed.

According to police reports, members of the NPA's Lino Blas Command led by Larry Lozano and Palermo Ortanez Command under Eduardo Abuque abducted Eliquin.

Nano could not say why Eliquin was abducted. A source said it was related to a land dispute.

The NPA units operating here have yet to issue a statement on the abduction.

Eliquin was the first known Air Force officer to be seized by communist rebels in the last 30 years.

Bacani said Aeta elders have established contacts with rebel commanders in a bid to help the military hasten the recovery of Eliquin.

"We have urged the rebels not to harm him," he added.

Eliquin, he said, was involved in medical missions in the village. The PAF has adopted Mawakat and nearby Mawaque for civic missions.

The Aeta elders have assisted in informal negotiations for the officer's release so the 380 residents in the village could resume the gathering of forest products and farming in their mountain plots, Bacani said.

"I hope he will be released soon and things get back to normal," he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

5 Batangas gang men killed in clash with cops

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Five suspected gang members, including the group's leader, believed to be behind the killing of the resident Ombudsman of the Batangas capitol, and a policeman were killed in a gunfight in Malvar, Batangas on Thursday night.

Senior Supt. Aaron Fidel, intelligence chief of the Calabarzon police, said of the five slain suspects, only gang leader Ricardo Manalo, alias Eric, of Dolores, Quezon, has been identified.

Also killed was PO3 Alexander Angeles, an active member of the Task Force Limbas of the Traffic Management Group based in Camp Crame.

Fidel said the suspects were all members of the Batangas-based Black Shark Gang (BSG).

Aside from big-time oil pilferage activities, the notorious group is also believed to be behind the hijacking and gun-for-hire activities in Batangas City and the towns of San Pascual and Bauan.

Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, Calabarzon police director, said four of the gang's members, including a certain Matador, escaped after the gunfight.

He said Matador and his fellow BSG members were among those behind the ambush slaying of Guillermo Gamo, the local anti-graft officer of the Batangas provincial government, last May 30.

"They were our suspects in the killing of Gamo. We're still looking into their actual involvement. Allegedly, that Matador was the gunman," Versoza told the INQUIRER.

Fidel said Angeles and his group, together with members of the regional intelligence and investigation division of the Calabarzon police, went to the alleged safe house of BSG in Sitio Calamiasan, Barangay San Fernando to serve warrants of arrest for Manalo.

He said Manalo's warrants for murder and frustrated murder were issued by Batangas Judge Mario Lopez.

As soon as they arrived at the area at around 10 p.m., the policemen, led by Insp. Ricardo Dalmacia, were met with gunshots coming from a warehouse that Manalo and his men used as their hideout.

Fidel said the gunshots started a gunfight that lasted for a few minutes.

During the exchange of gunfire, Angeles was fatally hit by one of the suspects, Fidel said.

Angeles was immediately rushed to the Mercado General Hospital in nearby Tanauan City where he was declared dead.

Fidel said the suspects had previously engaged members of Task Force Limbas last Jan. 30 in San Pascual, Batangas.

INQBOX Question of the Week
If you were President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and faced with the current controversies, what would you do?
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt! Ü
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RP-SPAIN FRIENDSHIP WEEK

A celebration of past and present

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

WRITER Cecilia Nava-Locsin likens the Spanish influence in Iloilo to a palimpsest or an ancient parchment that had been written on more than once. The earlier text, however, has not been completely erased and will appear on the parchment through time.

Nava-Locsin's metaphor was adopted by Iloilo writers and artists, who opened the two-day celebration of Spanish-Filipino Friendship Week in Iloilo City, 107 years after the Spanish government surrendered to Filipino revolutionaries on a Christmas Day.

The event gained impetus from a resolution passed by the city council in May, declaring every last week of June as Philippines-Spain Friendship Week. "Despite the reluctance to Spanish dominance, there are things worth remembering, like the gift of Christianity, education and economics," the resolution read.

Iloilo City was Spain's last capital in Asia after Manila fell to the Americans in 1898. Gen. Diego de los Rios was appointed Spanish-General of the Philippines, with Iloilo serving as temporary capital.

Elite

In 1892, the Katipunan movement began in Manila and quickly spread to provinces in Luzon, but not in Iloilo where most members of the elite remained loyal to the Spaniards because they derived economic benefits from their allegiance. When the revolution broke out in August 1896, the Ilonggo rich were angry.

The Spanish authorities organized the Ilonggo Volunteer Battalion, which sailed to Manila and fought the Katipuneros in Cavite. After a year, the unit returned to Iloilo and Spain's Queen Regent Maria Cristina issued a special decree on June 11, 1897, bestowing on Iloilo City the title of "La Muy Leal y Noble" (Most Loyal and Noble). The title is still part of the city's official seal today.

As Spain's fall was inevitable, the governor general left on Dec. 24, 1898, on board the ship "Churruca" en route to Zamboanga before sailing to Spain. The next day, the revolutionaries marched triumphantly to the city in what was said to be the glorious Christmas that Iloilo ever had.

Remembering past

Eric Divinagracia of the University of San Agustin, who helped organize the opening of the Philippines-Spain Friendship Week at the Museo Iloilo, said "Palimpsesto" celebrated the past and the present. It was subtitled "Anum ka Tigduag nga Irong-Ironganon kag Palatuntunan sa Tumandok nga Pulong" (A Contemporary Visual Arts Exhibit and Presentation of Spanish-inspired Hiligaynon Literature).

"While we recognize our rich heritage influenced by Spain, we also moved on," said Divinagracia.

Hiligaynon writer and lawyer Agustin Misola read his poem "Filipinas y España Dia de Amistad," recalling Spain's contribution to Filipino culture.

"*No escondemos la verdad del pasado … /La soberbia y latigos del tiempo /Pero, de Madre España, que rico /Nuestro hermoso recuerdo!*" (We do not hide the truth of the past … /The arrogance and whips of time /But from Mother Spain, how rich /Our beautiful remembrance!)

Another Spanish poem, "A la Raza Hispaña" (The Spanish Race), written by Flavio Cano Zaragoza, and excerpts from the works of Ilonggo writer Magdalena Jalandoni were recited.

Zaragoza wrote in Spanish and Jalandoni's was exclusively in a flowery Hiligaynon akin to the grandeur and cadence of the Spanish language, said writer John Iremil Teodoro.

This is no surprise. Scholars say that Hiligaynon, which is widely spoken in Western Visayas and several provinces in Mindanao, is the third language in the country that is heavily infused with Spanish, after Chavacano and Bikol.

Divinagracia noted that writers in Iloilo have several tongues. Among them are Hiligaynon, English, Spanish and Kiniray-a.

During his time, Zaragoza was criticized for writing in Spanish. But, he said, "[T]here was … never hatred. Our aim was to choose rather than to reject and we choose that which is good, of which there was an abundance."

Colonial influences

The exhibit of six artists showed paintings with modern temperament but, in palimpsest spirit, still bear traces of Spanish tradition. Featured were the works of Norman Posecion, Kristine Garcia, Livy Limoso, Golberg Villanueva, Christian Lozanes and Jorell Dimapindan.

Zafiro Ledesma II, in charge of the Museo Iloilo, said that if you scratched the core of the young painters, their colonial past would show.

The celebration included a trade fair, Spanish wine appreciation seminar, cooking demonstration and flamenco workshop and performance.

The University of San Agustin hosted a Spanish film festival and lecture on "Spanish Influences on Philippine Architecture" by Instituto Cervantes.

Tertulia

The afternoon of June 29 was reserved for grand but leisurely "Tertulia y Tapas" at the Sarabia Manor Hotel, a dinner-fashion show of Spanish-inspired Filipino gowns by Patis Tesoro and Jackie Peñalosa. Among the models was former Sen. Anna Dominique Coseteng.

Ending the affair was the "Noche de Gala," a cultural presentation of dances and songs by the University of San Agustin Troubadours and the Kawilihan dance troupe. The Centro Flamenco presented many kinds of flamenco, tango and traditional Spanish dances.

Some quarters criticized the two-day celebration as elitist because it only involved the well-heeled, many of whom belong to the city's old rich and whose names were Spanish-sounding. The unshod descendants of revolutionaries who liberated Iloilo were forgotten, they said.

The organizers refuted the criticisms, saying that a civic group sponsored the tickets for schoolchildren to watch the presentation of Spanish songs and dances. They added that they had opened the activities to the public.

IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH FOR PEACE AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING

We the undersigned youth leaders would like to belie the general perception of youth apathy. We are gravely concerned about what is happening and where our country is going.

We accept the President's humble apology. But forgiveness comes with a price. **Price such as drastic reforms that include a broad government revamp.** We commend the President's pledge to work harder to win back the people's trust. Indeed, it is a hard decision to induce or support the self-imposed exile of her husband to ease the political tension. Politics should not break up families and this is a decision no ordinary wife should ever bear. However, as the mother of a nation, we are ask the President for clearer and better manifestations of the bolder reforms she has promised to do. **We are encouraged by her most recent move for a Cabinet revamp and Charter Change. We therefore expect her to lead the speedy implementation of true and deep reforms that will allow our people to feed themselves, to help the people climb out of the morass, to give us opportunities for employment and afford us dignity as a people. We expect and demand for a clean government through the immediate removal of tainted and non-performing top officials who act as brazen vampires that serve only to suck the blood, sweat and tears of the poor and the underprivileged. We expect and deserve new, competent and honest public servants who can be our exemplars in service, excellence and integrity.**

We ask for more opportunities for young leaders to participate meaningfully in the task of nation building. **The older generation of leaders has had their chance and has sadly failed in many aspects. Our nation's salvation is in the hand of the selfless youth unsullied by corruption and dedicated to people's welfare.** We ready and willing to do our share in rebuilding our nation already tired of bickering, conflict and discord.

We assert the right to hear the full story, to know the whole, unedited, unspliced and unadulterated Truth. Current calls for the President's resignation are premature. Such calls, in fact, seem fashionable in the eyes of an impressionable generation. But the full story has yet to unfold.

We want to know all and every politician who called ranking COMELEC officials during the counting and canvassing of votes. The opposition's insistence that we hear only excerpts edited and doctored by its lawyer and supporters is suspicious to say the least. Were voices of key figures among their ranks also among those to be heard in that tape? We refuse to be a party to another scenario, such as the one that happened with ousted and detained for plunder President Erap, where till now, the Truth still evades us. Where another truth is about to evade us. We believe that our efforts should be focused on knowing what really transpired through careful study and sound discernment Quick condemnation based on little information, emotional appeals and simple conjectures is both folly and dangerous.

We are alarmed that there are elements capable of bugging the President. If they can do this to the highest official what can stop them from violating the rights of ordinary citizen? Who are these people? Who authorized these wiretaps? Shall we forever be in the dark?

We refuse to be hoodwinked twice. We reserve the right to hold judgment upon the dramatis personae in this whole comedy of errors. We reserve the right to hold judgment until we hear all the facts.

We assert the primacy of the rule of law. We refuse to condone a cycle of unconstitutional removal of Presidents. We believe in due process for everyone, no matter how base the person, or how high the crime. This is what the rule of law is all about. This is what constitutional democracy is anchored on.

We refuse to dignify all calls of military junta, revolutionary government and other unconstitutional forms of succession being peddled by self proclaimed messiahs and misled miscreants. We laud the efforts of the opposition in carrying out their role as a responsible fiscalizer with in the bounds set by our constitution. We wish to remind everyone that we have agreed upon, as a people, a binding constitutional and democratic covenant that defines us a nation. We must uphold the principles and processes in that covenant function; for only by allowing that can we save ourselves from becoming a nation run via a Roman Circus where the masses are swayed by bread and blood.

The wheels of justice may grind slow, but it grinds fine.

Y-PAD
Youth for Peace and Development
9546 Taguig St. Rizal Village, Makati City. Mobile # 09159367903

UNION OF CATHOLIC STUDENT COUNCILS
JOHN VOLTAIRE ALMEDA - Y-PAD Spokesperson; Union of Catholic Student Councils – President; UST Central Student Council – President
JOY PAULINE GUILLERMO- St. Scholastica Central Student Council – President
BILL RUSSELL DAVID - Don Bosco Technological School Student Council
LUIS VOLTAIRE FORMILLERA - San Beda College Student Council
MARIBELL ALFONSO - Miriam College Student Council
LUDWIG UMALI - San Sebastian College Student Council
KRISTA BELLE ANG - La Consolacion College Student Council - President

NON-SECTARIAN SCHOOLS
DELFIN BAQUIRAN - Philippine Normal University Student Government – President
MC ROVAN S. NAVOR - FEU-Institute of Accounts, Business and Finance Student Council - President
ANGELITA Y. DELA CRUZ - Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila Student Government – President
CATHERINE TAPIA - ABE – International School Central Student Council - President
ARIES AGLUPUS - University of the East Arts and Sciences Student Council – President
MA.CONCEPCION DOMINGUEZ-AMA College Student Council - President
CARLO ABARQUEZ - Ateneo School of Law Student Council
RYAN JAEN - Lyceum School of Law Student Council
JOHN MARIO MAGAT - TUP University Student Government - President

SCHOOL BASED ORGANIZATIONS
ROMEO MACAPAZ JR. - OJFINEX Adamson University
GIANCARLO C. CAPCO - Management Society IABF Far Eastern University – President
NASSEF M. ADIONG - International Studies' Student Organization (ISSO) UE
DATU JAINAL ABIDING YAP BAHJIN II - Fraternal Order of Utopia – President Ateneo School of Law; Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila School of Law; La Salle – FEU School of Law; Arellano College of Law; Lyceum College of Law; San Beda College of Law; University of the Philippines College of Law

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
DENIZ REYES - Alliance for Democratic Initiatives – Secretary General
ALI GARANGAN - Shabab Bangsa Moro – President
COLLINS ASILO - Tarlac Youth Movement – Chairman
NOLAN TIONCO - ALYANSA NG KABATAAN SA KOMUNIDAD - CHAIRMAN
RODOLFO RODRIGUEZ - BATANG MAKATI MOVEMENT – PRESIDENT
JOSE MATTHEW TATCO- SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN FEDERATION - NCR PRESIDENT

SCHOOL ADMIISTRATORS, EDUCATORS & INDIVIDUAL
PROF. MELVIN MITRA - PAR-ACT Spokesperson
DEAN NORBERTO CASTILLO - Lyceum of the Philippines – Dean of Student Affairs
ATTY DAVID LUNA GALANG - Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Maynila – Dean of Student Affairs
PROF. SOFRONIO C. DULAY - International Movement of Development Managers – VP
PROF ERNIE RADIN - Adamson University Faculty

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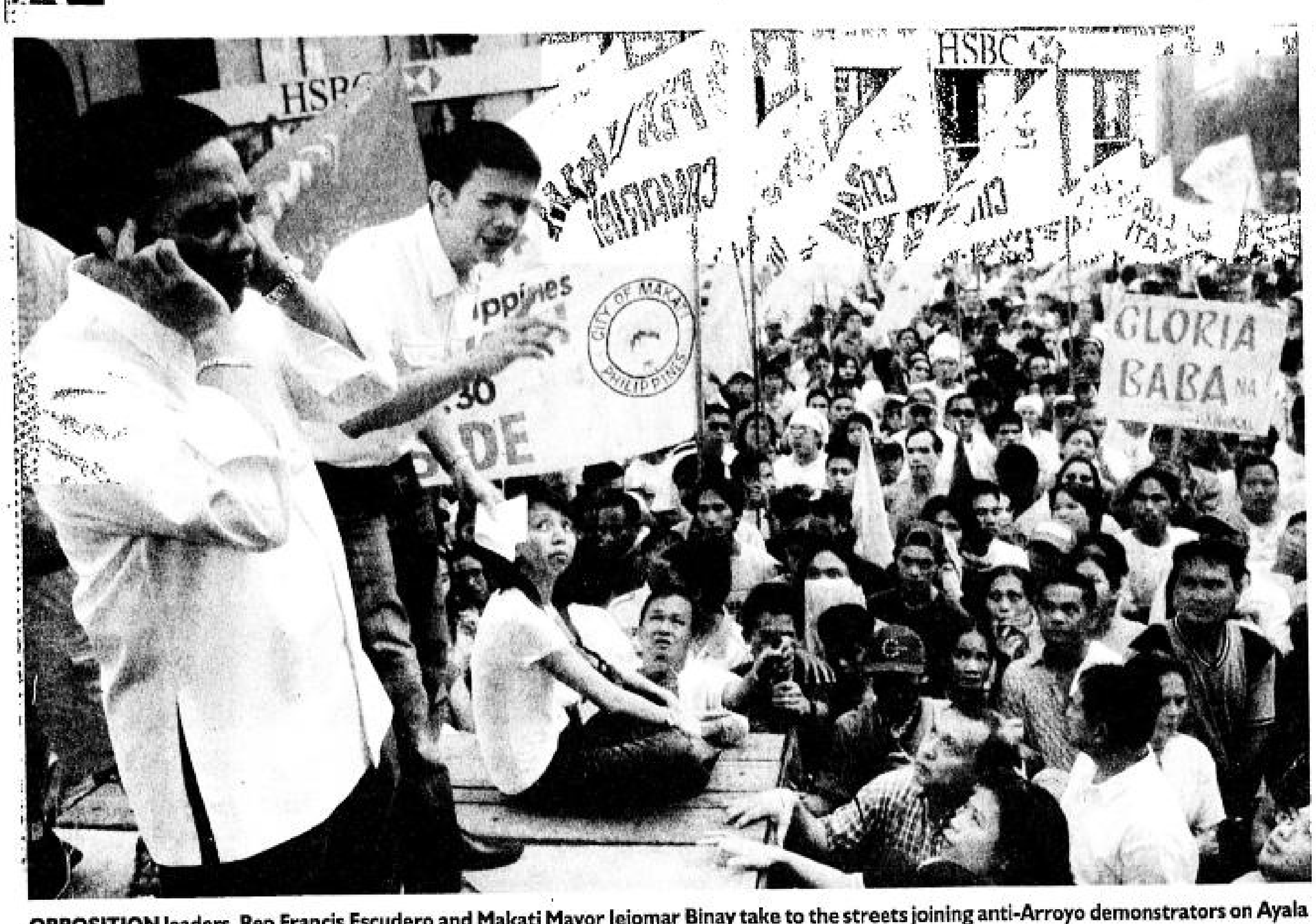

OPPOSITION leaders, Rep Francis Escudero and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay take to the streets joining anti-Arroyo demonstrators on Ayala Avenue. The protesters have started their countdown to GMA's ouster.

ERIK ARAZAS

'She's finished; she's history'

By TJ Burgonio
DJ Yap, and Michael Lim Ubac

"SHE'S finished. She's history."

That was how Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. described President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday after 11 of her Cabinet secretaries and key officials resigned in a dramatic withdrawal of support for her.

Other opposition senators called it the coup de grace.

"It validates the scene that I foresee, that the end is near. And the sooner she realizes that, the better," Pimentel told reporters.

Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said the resignations could lead to a "paralysis in the operation of the government," which would make governing more difficult for Ms Arroyo.

"Since June 27, [when she apologized to the Filipino people] she dug her own political grave. It's very difficult for a leader to govern from the grave she herself dug," Lacson said in an interview.

Administration Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the mass resignation "weakened the capacity of the President to govern."

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said the resignations bolstered public perception that "all is not well" with the administration.

Like a patient at ICU

"This is dangerous for her because this is her economic team," Sen. Jamby Madrigal said.

Senators Jinggoy Estrada and Luisa "Loi" Ejercito saw the early downfall of Ms Arroyo.

"Like a seriously ill patient, the Arroyo administration is in the intensive care unit, waiting to breathe its last," Estrada said.

Administration Sen. Richard Gordon stood pat on his position that the legal way to handle the leadership crisis was to file an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

"So we're going to force this woman to resign. But there's a process, and that is impeachment," he said. "By all means try her... There must be a trial and a decision."

Countdown has begun

Militant lawmakers said they had begun their countdown to Ms Arroyo's ouster.

In a press conference, Bayan Muna party-list Reps. Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casiño urged Ms Arroyo to relinquish power to a "transition council" that would include all basic sectors and political blocs "not allied with Mrs. Arroyo."

"Even as she's digging in to preserve her hold in power, the ground is fast crumbling beneath her and threatens to bury Ms. Arroyo's political career," Ocampo said.

Anakpawis party-list Representative Rafael Mariano said: "The [departure] of officials within the Arroyo cabinet, both forced and voluntary, clearly shows that Mrs. Arroyo is all alone, extremely isolated and can never recover,"

Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales said: "She's done and gone. Her credibility has dissipated into thin air."

Deeper hole

"She is only digging a deeper hole for herself the longer she struggles to stay in power," Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said.

In the aptly named "Conspiracy Bar" in Quezon City, Ms Arroyo's opponents hatched plans for her ouster through Edsa-like street protests.

Laban ng Masa, a broad alliance of political and civil society blocs, urged the people to join street demonstrations to push for the President's ouster.

In a statement, they spurned what they called a "US-brokered settlement" that would elevate Vice President Noli De Castro to the presidency.

They claimed the resignation of key Cabinet members had been accompanied by reports that a settlement was being hatched by "big players of the elite" involving a De Castro succession.

The group, led by former University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo Jr., said a revolutionary transitional government was what the country needed for genuine social reforms.

Ka Roger: Final blow

Elsewhere in Quezon City, an alliance of pro-Arroyo groups calling itself the "Reform Now Movement," expressed support for the beleaguered President, saying the people should give her a chance to enact her promised reforms.

Composed of Aguman Pilipino, Kasangga at Gabay, and other sectors sympathetic to Ms Arroyo, the group called for due process and respect for the Constitution.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" described the resignation of Ms Arroyo's key Cabinet ministers as "the final blow." *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Breathtaking events ...

From page A1

clamor for her own resignation as a way out of the impasse that threatens to push the crisis to extra-constitutional modes, not excluding military intervention. The immediate problem of the President is whether she still has ample leverage, space and time to enable her to redirect the crisis to the constitutional option of impeachment.

Yesterday the President went on overdrive to fill the holes left by the resignation of 10 key Cabinet members, who represented her links to important constituencies—the business community and the NGO sector.

Two of the Cabinet members—Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Secretary Juan Santos of Trade and Industry—have called for her resignation, and this call had resonance in the business community, an strategic constituency for an economics-oriented government. The Makati Business Club and the Financial Executives of the Philippines joined the clamor for resignation, previously limited to disparate civilian groups and organizations.

These chambers said they had "come to the conclusion that the President's ability to effectively manage the affairs of state has been seriously impaired by the scandals over 'jueteng' and the allegations of election rigging."

The problem facing the President is to hold the ground from further erosion of her support in the business community. In the crisis of the government of President Joseph Estrada, the business community had solidified against him and he staved off collapse of his government for four months of his impeachment after two key Cabinet members—then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Secretary Mar Roxas of Trade and Industry had resigned—until the military withdrew its support in January 2001.

With this experience in mind, the President and her allies are clinging to the belief that collapse of government could be averted by holding the line despite Cabinet desertions and that by buying time, the pressure for her resignation could be redirected to the impeachment arena.

But the decision of a third strategic sector on whether to join the resignation bandwagon is crucial for the President to buy time and create space for maneuver. As of yesterday, the bishops were still divided although they had said their meeting was intended to present a united stand on the crisis.

Former President Corazon Aquino has joined the call for resignation, and it's not clear whether her decision had foreclosed the option of driving the crisis to the impeachment arena. Although resignation is a voluntary option but if the president is standing firm on not resigning and in her belief that she had won the election with a substantial vote.

The US government, a crucial factor in the outcomes of the 1986 people power revolution and the 1989 coup that nearly toppled the Aquino administration, has remained discreet in not showing oversigns of either supporting the government or encouraging moves for the President's resignation.

Balancing act

In a statement reflecting a balancing act, the American Ambassador Joseph Mussomeli, said: "I could categorically tell you that we support the rule of law. Within that context, we believe that the president is still the president. Obviously, that it was within her legal rights to remove her Cabinet. Her Cabinet is hers to do what she pleases. That doesn't mean that we are not disappointed in that. That doesn't mean that we're not worried. That again this is something that distracts from reforms that she was committed to and we hope is still committed to."

He said, "This is a fluid situation. This is a crisis situation now and the Filipino people and their leaders will have to be careful how they move and what they do."

Drilon, Villar jockeying for VP post this early

From page A1

ishly working behind the scenes—just in case Vice President Noli de Castro makes it to Malacañang.

INQUIRER sources said Drilon's party mates in the Liberal Party had already sounded off De Castro to choose Drilon as his Vice President once Ms Arroyo resigns.

Former President Cory Aquino had also reportedly told De Castro that Drilon is her choice.

This is because Villar, known to be a close friend of De Castro, has the inside track in the event of a vacancy in the No. 2 post. They both belong to the Wednesday Group, along with Senators Joker Arroyo, Francis Pangilinan and Ralph Recto who have been meeting more frequently in the past few days to help De Castro in his decision-making.

And the plot thickens. Yesterday, Drilon and Villar presided over meetings of their respective parties. Drilon is Liberal Party president while Villar heads the Nacionalista Party.

"You and I know who Noli's first choice will be," said one senator, referring to Villar.

Villar is one of the country's richest men who pulled a fast one in 2000 when he used a prayer to transmit the articles of impeachment against then President Joseph Estrada to the Senate.

HK meeting

A Malacañang official told the INQUIRER that Drilon and Aquino had met with De Castro in Hong Kong but this could not be immediately confirmed.

Drilon has vehemently denied talking to De Castro.

The Malacañang official said De Castro had "turned down" the Drilon request.

Another senator, who requested anonymity, told the INQUIRER that LP officials had asked De Castro to pick Drilon as his vice president way before the LP withdrew its support from Ms Arroyo yesterday afternoon, asking her to step down.

"They talked to Noli but he said he didn't want to discuss it," the senator said.

The senator added that De Castro pointed out that it was premature and improper to discuss the vice presidency because Ms Arroyo has not resigned and he remains the Vice President.

Drilon himself promptly cut the LP press conference when reporters asked him whether he would become the next vice president.

No, no, no

"That is not true. It's not me. The process is [for] the Vice President—when he becomes the president—[to] nominate somebody from the Senate or the House. It's the [process] observed when (Sen.) Teofisto Guingona Jr. was appointed vice president by President Arroyo," Drilon said.

"No, no, no," he said, when asked if he talked to De Castro. "I think this is the end of this press conference."

A senator, who is strongly backing Villar, had only harsh words for Drilon, who had been Ms Arroyo's staunch supporter until yesterday afternoon when the LP voted to ask her to step down.

The senator said Drilon had been one of the first people to ask Ms Arroyo to speak about the "Gloriagate" tapes and to discipline her family suspected of involvement in "jueteng."

Shifting gears

"They (Drilon and his supporters) want to go along with the proposal of Nene (Pimentel) that GMA and Noli both resign so that Drilon would be acting president. The Liberals were happy; they were banking on making Mar (Roxas) run for president and Noynoy (Aquino's son, Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III for) vice president in the special elections until it dawned on them that Susan (Roces) is only playing coy," the senator told the INQUIRER.

The senator said Roxas would take a beating from Roces, Fernando Poe Jr.'s widow, in a snap election showdown. Roxas won the highest number of votes or 19.3 million, in any Philippine election.

"Then they (LP) shifted gear. *Kampi na naman sila kay Presidente* (They're again on the side of the President)," the senator said.

After two LP members in the Cabinet resigned, Drilon led a meeting of the party at Club Filipino yesterday which ended up in a withdrawal of support from Ms Arroyo.

Rewarded

The senator said Drilon was already rewarded by Ms Arroyo when she intervened for Drilon in the Senate presidency fight in 2001 with Villlar. Villar's Wednesday Group acceded to Ms Arroyo's request and the two ended up with a gentleman's agreement that Drilon would serve the first two years as Senate president and Villar would serve in the remaining year.

Villar also dismissed talks that he could be De Castro's pick, even as he admitted attending meetings between De Castro and his group.

"We never talked about that," Villar told reporters yesterday.

Asked if he would say no if De Castro were to ask him, Villar said: "Why should I turn it down?"

After cutting the LP press conference short, Drilon went straight to his car, waved off reporters who wanted to ask more questions.

Relayed

After the Nacionalista Party meeting at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Villar took all media requests for interviews and excused himself a number of times to answer phone calls.

As Cory Aquino read her statement regarding Ms Arroyo, Villar and his wife Rep. Cynthia Villar were seen relaxing and talking to friends at the hotel lobby.

DE CASTRO against the seal of the presidency which he stands to inherit if President Arroyo resigns.

REUTERS

Closer to presidency, Noli wants 2nd chance for Gloria

From page A1

Vice President to comment on calls for GMA to resign as this would directly benefit him," Andres told the INQUIRER.

"One thing is definite: he is calling on everyone to rally behind the Constitution. He appeals for the people for 'prayerful discernment of these latest developments."

Opposition politicians were divided on the issue of Ms Arroyo's successor. Lacson said he would support De Castro's succession, along with Senators Sergio Osmeña III, Rodolfo Biazon and Richard Gordon.

Susan Roces, widow of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. who ran in the presidential election last year, was convinced former Sen. Loren Legarda won the vice presidential race. Legarda has a pending election protest.

The United Opposition also said De Castro was an unacceptable successor.

"What we want is a genuine change, not a mere change of personality," said San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, son of deposed president Joseph Estrada. He said with De Castro, "there will be no genuine change, there will be no honest-to-goodness cleansing in government."

Transition council

He said UNO still maintained its proposal to establish a transition council before holding a snap election later.

Businessmen are also worried that De Castro is merely a talking head and does not have the intellectual capacity to be president, said the French News Agency AFP.

"Even if Noli de Castro succeeds Arroyo, his term will be worthless," said the leftist Bayan in a statement.

Rep. Luis Villafuerte said that even if De Castro replaced Arroyo, the opposition would go after him next.

"They will say he should also resign because his election was tainted [and that] he is incompetent. They will gang up on [him]," Villafuerte said. *With a report from Edson Tandoc Jr., Norman Bordadora, TJ Burgonio and AFP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

US diplomat calls resigned Cabinet officials patriots

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Mussomeli also made it clear that the United States would "firmly oppose" any effort to unseat Ms Arroyo by extra-constitutional means, including by coup or by "People Power" protests.

"I know many of those Cabinet members who have resigned now and the ones that I know are all very decent and good people, patriots, who are concerned with the welfare of the Filipino people," Mussomeli said on ANC network.

He dismissed claims by some of Ms Arroyo allies that the resigned officials were "adventurists."

"Not the ones I know. No, I couldn't agree with that," Mussomeli said. "I know some of them very well. The ones I know, frankly, have accepted these posts as an act of patriotism. They could make a lot of money and have a lot more prestigious roles in the private sector but they have chosen to be in the Cabinet."

Curiously, Mussomeli, whose government had hailed Ms Arroyo as a staunch ally in its fight against terror, evaded any direct answer when asked if he could categorically say that the Washington still supported the Arroyo administration.

US keeping distance?

"I could categorically tell you that we support the rule of law," he said.

"Within that context, we believe that the President is still the President, obviously, that it was within her legal rights to remove her Cabinet ... That doesn't mean that we are not disappointed in that. That doesn't mean that we're not worried that again this is something that distracts from the reforms that she was committed to and we hope is still committed to."

The US envoy was referring to Ms Arroyo's decision the other night to ask all her Cabinet secretaries to resign.

Mussomeli indicated his dismay at how the country's leaders had embroiled themselves the past few weeks in the struggle to keep or seize power.

"I would only say, and maybe I am getting too personal on this and I shouldn't as a diplomat, but it seems that the focus on both sides is too much on either retaining power or attaining power and not enough focus on the Filipino people and what's best for them."

No coup d'état

He deplored that the political turmoil had diverted attention from the basic problems that needed to be solved, such as rebuilding the economy, fighting corruption and reforming the military.

"That's exactly why we're disappointed," he said.

Mussomeli described as "fluid" the crisis situation gripping the country but said he was confident the Filipino people and their leaders would find a way to resolve it "over the next few weeks, the next few days."

Mussomeli, who is is leaving the country on Aug. 6 to take up his post in Cambodia, said his government favored a constitutional solution to the crisis.

"Anything that goes beyond the constitution, the US government will firmly oppose and that means all sort of things. That means a military coup, that means the imposition of martial law, that means people power in the streets."

No military option

He added: "Anything that will weaken the institutions that we genuinely believe are the true safeguards for your own liberty and welfare are also against our own interests and we will do our best to oppose such action."

Mussomeli said the United States would "not interfere militarily" if any group in the Philippines would resort to unconstitutional methods to change the government.

But he stressed that the US government would oppose any method that impinge on the Filipino people's freedom.

"We would speak publicly and forcefully denounce it," he said.

Different time and age

He said Washington had no specific agenda in this country but that it desired a peaceful and legal solution to the current turmoil.

Reminded that the US played a decisive role in ending the Marcos dictatorship, Mussomeli said: "This is not the same time. This is a different age completely."

He added: "I am still very hopeful that any sort of intercession by the United States at any level will not be necessary."

Persuasive flights

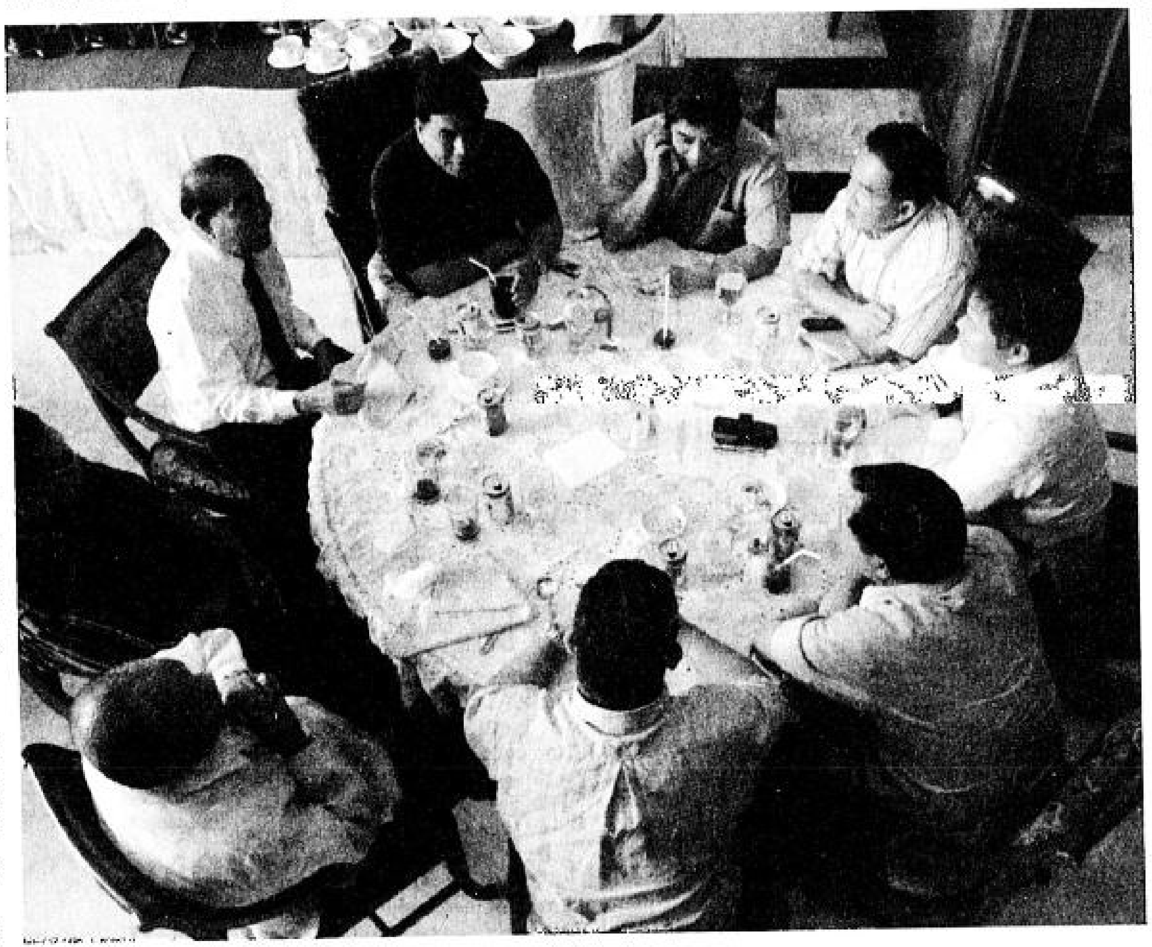
Would he completely rule out any US role at this point?

"I would not rule out anything that would save lives or help the Filipino people," Mussomeli said.

The United States helped force Marcos out of office in 1986 by withdrawing its support in the face of massive street protests.

It also helped put down an attempted coup against President Cory Aquino in 1989 by sending two fighter jets on "persuasive flights" over the capital.

"OUR DEFINING MOMENT," enthuse Lakas Party members including party co-founder ex-President Fidel Ramos as President Arroyo drops in on the party caucus at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City. PCPO-MALACAÑANG PHOTO



PRO-GMA CONGRESSMEN led by Rep. Prospero Pichay (center facing camera) hold a luncheon meeting at Rembrandt Hotel in Quezon City after their press conference reiterating their support for the President. JOAN BONDOC

GMA'S BRIGHT young man Mike Defensor fiercely defends his President at the Liberal Party meeting on Friday at Club Filipino. JOAN BONDOC

'I will not resign'

From page A1

"Once again, we're subverting the rule of law and perpetuating a system that's broken and will remain broken until fundamental reforms are put in place," she added.

The Chief Executive said Aquino was well aware that the "President is charged by the nation to defend our hard won democracy at all cost."

"To those who've forgotten this, I say, take your grievances (to) Congress where I am very willing to submit with due process as called for by our Constitution," Ms Arroyo said. "In the meantime I will continue to focus on the people's business, which is getting our economy moving and creating better quality of life to the people."

She said she would announce in the next few days the new members of her Cabinet and vowed the new team would be made up of individuals "whose commitment to our nation and to democratic principles will be beyond doubt."

New Team

"This is a team that will work with me to move away from political bickering to doing what the people of the Philippines expect their leaders to do and that is get our economy moving and ensure the delivery of essential services such as health care, education and security to all parts of the country," Ms Arroyo said.

Later last night, Ms Arroyo appointed six officers-in-charge to replace those who had resigned. She named Mario Relampagos as budget secretary, Roberto Tan as finance secretary, Tom Aquino as trade secretary and Ramon Bacani as education secretary.

Lualhati Pablo and Naser Pangandaman were appointed as social welfare and agrarian reform secretaries, respectively.

Former President Fidel Ramos went to Malacañang and, unlike Ms Aquino, expressed support to Ms Arroyo. Ramos later sat down with other politicians led by House Speaker Jose de Venecia who had trooped to Malacañang to rally behind Ms Arroyo. The President, looking relaxed and smiling in a red suit, joined Ramos and De Venecia and posed for television and news photographers.

"This crisis is not as bad as those that we went through in the past, including martial law, and we succeeded because of our unity," said Ramos in an interview later on government television.

Graceful exit

Ramos reiterated his proposal to speed up the process to amend the Constitution and shift to a parliamentary form of government by next year as a "graceful exit" for the President.

De Venecia said Ms Arroyo should "stand her ground as she moves to fill up the Cabinet at the soonest possible opportunity."

Pro-Arroyo Cabinet secretaries comprising two thirds of the 41-member Cabinet denounced their colleagues who resigned.

"It's sad because we have been together for four years through good and bad times," said Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas. "There comes a time that we will differ on our views on what is the national interest, but I think that we can get willing and able replacements from among 84 million Filipinos."

"If you have a problem with your boss, there are many ways of stating it without going through these theatrics," said Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, the only economic manager left in the Cabinet.

Don't lecture

Neri slammed maverick Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima. "I don't feel he is in the best position to lecture to us on leadership when he himself has violated the basic principle of leadership," said Neri.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said his department and the Armed Forces were "solidly behind" the Constitution. Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes said his department and the entire police force would ensure that "no vested interest group or personal ambition will take advantage of this situation to promote their own ends."

'Failed Cabinet coup'

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita described the resignation of the Purisima group as a "failed Cabinet coup." Ermita said the remaining Cabinet officials signed a position paper expressing regret on the action of their colleagues, "considering that the President reposed so much trust and confidence in them."

Ermita said he had seen presidents under pressure from Ferdinand Marcos to Aquino and Ramos. He said Ms Arroyo was "so calm" in the face of the political storm. "She's going about her own schedule and business of governance."

Mayors

In the evening, as the President's taped address was being broadcast, Ms Arroyo motored to the Sulu Hotel in Quezon City where she had a photo opportunity with the ruling administration party, Lakas Christian and Muslim Democrats.

Eleven Metropolitan Manila Mayors, led by Lito Atienza and Sonny Belmonte, also went to Malacañang. "We will not support any illegal move to oust the President. It will be very dangerous to the country," said Mandaluyong City Mayor Neptali Gonzales.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez replied to Purisima's accusation that Ms Arroyo had something to do with the issuance by the Supreme Court of a temporary restraining order on the implementation of the Expanded Value-Added Tax Law.

He said this was unfair and constituted contempt of court. "The court should not accept that kind of statement, Gonzalez said.

Et tu, Brute?

Representatives Prospero Pichay and Ronaldo Puno called for "sobriety," saying that to force Ms Arroyo to resign was against the Constitution. Pichay likened the situation the President was placed after the resignation of Purisima and his allies to the betrayal of Julius Caesar by Brutus. He said Cabinet members have no right to dictate on the President. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Armand N. Nocum, Philip C. Tubeza, Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Jocelyn R. Uy*

GMA: 24 hours

From page A1

Chamber of Commerce and Industry rejects moves to force the President to step down. Opposition leaders and civil society groups start converging along Ayala Avenue.

5 p.m.—Former President Fidel V. Ramos visits Malacañang to meet the President and assure her of his unwavering support.

5:30 p.m.—The President leaves Malacañang for Sulo Hotel in Quezon City to drop in on a party caucus of the ruling Lakas party.

6 p.m.—In a taped message, the President rejects all calls for her resignation. Malacañang announces temporary replacements for resigned Cabinet officials.

Drilon, LP withdraw support from GMA

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE LIBERAL PARTY through its president, Senate President Franklin Drilon, adds its voice to the growing clamor for Ms Arroyo's resignation after the party which was in coalition with the ruling Lakas-NUCD party held a close door meeting at Club Filipino. But other party stalwarts like Manila Mayor Lito Atienza claims he had neither been consulted or told about the meeting. JOAN BONDOC

THE LIBERAL Party led by Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday withdrew support from President Macapagal-Arroyo and called on her to leave Malacañang.

After more than an hour of spirited debate at Club Filipino, the LP national executive committee voted 20 in favor of Ms Arroyo's resignation, 11 for her impeachment, one for her to take a leave of absence, and one—Environment Secretary Michael Defensor—for her to stay.

Almost at the same time, the Nacionalista Party led by Sen. Manuel Villar met at the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza.

Villar, said to be a shoo-in for the vice presidency, said the NP was leaving it up to Ms Arroyo to decide what she should do but was supporting the constitutional process and Vice President Noli de Castro's succession to the presidency.

Drilon read the LP stand two hours after 10 key members of the Cabinet announced their resignation and called on Ms Arroyo to make the "supreme sacrifice" of resigning.

Of the 10, Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad and Agrarian Secretary Rene Villa are LP members.

"The Liberal Party is appealing to the President to vacate her office by way of voluntary resignation. Should she decide not to resign, [the LP] shall support an impeachment process," Drilon said.

He added: "This painful and difficult decision was taken after intensive analysis of unfolding events, a series of consultations with members of the party.

"We are convinced that the resignation of the President is the best step toward resolution of the current crisis as it will eliminate further uncertainties, ease current and further conflicts and allow our country to move ahead with critical reforms beneficial to our people."

Drilon said the LP decision amounted to withdrawal of support from Ms Arroyo. But the matter of whether the party would sever ties with the administration coalition has yet to be tackled, he said.

"If she vacates [Malacañang], the Vice President shall assume [the presidency] because that is part of the constitutional process," Drilon said.

"Ang bayan higit sa lahat (The country above all)" was how the Villar-led NP framed its position.

It led an LP official to quip that "Ang bayan" sounded like "Kabayan," the monicker of De Castro who is a close friend of Villar and other members of the Wednesday Group in the Senate.

Even the NP statement sounded similar to the statement that De Castro issued yesterday.

"The Nacionalistas call on all Filipinos to stand by and defend the Philippine Constitution at this time of crisis. We should not be led by siren songs of shortcuts or snap elections, of revolutionary transitory governments, of experimenting on solutions outside the constitutional framework," Villar said.

"We call on Ms Arroyo to deeply reflect on how best to serve the country now and preserve the Republic from further division," he said.

Villar said this was the NP's position because it had always been "independent" of Malacañang.

The LP had to make the stand because it is a member of the Arroyo coalition, he said, adding:

"The Nacionalistas who serve as chairmen in the investigations of the 'jueteng' and 'Garci' tapes have carried out their responsibilities with the impartiality necessary for truth to surface, for people to demand of its leaders to be fully accountable."

Tito leaves Gloria again

By Nikko Dizon

AMBASSADOR to China Teofisto Guingona yesterday resigned his post, saying it was what his conscience dictated.

The former Vice President's open letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo read:

"It pains me to write this letter, but the challenge that confronts the nation today goes beyond personal attachments. It goes to the soul of governance itself and we decide as conscience dictates.

"I therefore humbly tender my resignation as Ambassador to the People's Republic of China."

A signed copy of Guingona's resignation letter was faxed to the Department of Foreign Affairs press corps late yesterday afternoon.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo had yet to issue a statement on the issue at press time.

DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque expressed surprise over Guingona's resignation, and said he had learned of it only from TV and radio reports.

"He was even there last night (Thursday night) at the reception for the former Chinese ambassadors," Asuque said in a phone interview.

Guingona, whose appointment was only recently confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, was due to leave for Beijing mid-month.

Ms Arroyo named Guingona vice president and concurrent foreign secretary upon her assumption of power in January 2001, following the ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

But the two officials disagreed over certain national and party issues, and Guingona quit as president of the ruling Lakas-CMD and subsequently as foreign secretary.

In 2004, he joined the camp of the then opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., who died last December.

Last January, the President appointed Guingona ambassador to China, replacing Ambassador Willy Gaa who was transferred to the San Francisco consulate.

Cory to GMA: Time to quit

From page A1

Even the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) is preparing to call for the President's resignation.

Senior Catholic bishops led by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales held an emergency meeting Thursday night to discuss options to end the worsening political crisis, according to two Church officials privy to the meeting.

The sources said Rosales and at least four other prelates—Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Bishops Socrates Villegas of Balanga, Antonio Tobias of Novaliches and Chito Tagle of Imus—had agreed that the best option was to call for Ms Arroyo's resignation through an official statement by the CBCP.

"The most preferential option during the meeting was to tell the President to make the ultimate sacrifice for the common welfare," one of the sources told the INQUIRER.

'Tumultuous state'

Aquino read her statement to reporters at around 3 p.m., at the family-owned Cojuangco Building in Makati's central business district.

She did not take questions after delivering her piece and was immediately led out of the room by her private security and supporters, including her son, Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Saying the country could not go on in its "tumultuous state," Aquino called on Ms Arroyo to yield Malacañang to De Castro before other forces "grab power."

She rejected proposals that Ms Arroyo face an impeachment trial, saying this "long and inherently contentious process will only generate more divisions in society and cast more suspicions on the threatened institutions of our democracy."

Aquino said allowing De Castro to take over would be "the fastest and most orderly path to take" and "one in which [Ms Arroyo's] undoubted abilities will play a major role."

She attributed no specific wrongdoing to Ms Arroyo save for the "lapse of judgment" in phoning an election official during the canvassing of votes in the May 2004 presidential polls.

"I will not judge the lapse of judgment that the President had the humility to confess," Aquino said.

"But I cannot escape the conclusion that is plain for all to see: the country cannot continue in its present tumultuous state; good and effective government become an impossible undertaking," she said, adding:

"Without this sacrifice, our country faces only a future of danger to its freedom and progress."

About an hour before the press conference, Aquino heard Mass at the Assumption College, Ms Arroyo's alma mater.

The school administration barred the media from covering the Mass, although it released a statement on the prevailing political crisis.

Part of the statement read: "While we forgive, we demand accountability."

Survive as President

In the press conference held at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Pasay City, Purisima and company said they had made up their mind to turn in their resignation as early as Tuesday "after a long period of reflection, debate and consultations."

They said Ms Arroyo "preempted" their move when, in a radio message on Thursday night, she told all members of her Cabinet to resign so she could form a new team to implement her reforms.

"This preemption does not change our conviction that her decisions of late are guided mainly by her determination to survive as President," the group said. "We believe that she will continue to make her decisions according to this norm."

The officials said, however, that they were making no judgments on accusations that the President cheated in the 2004 polls and that members of her family had accepted illegal gambling payoffs.

They said there was a "proper forum" to resolve these allegations.

But more than "poisoned politics or infirmities in the Constitution," there are pressing concerns confronting the nation, and at the core of these are "the issues of leadership and credibility," they said.

These issues include the "ability of the President to continue to lead and govern our country with the trust and confidence of the people," they said.

Greater damage

"The longer the President stays in office under a cloud of doubt and mistrust, and with her style of decision-making, the greater the damage on the economy and the more vulnerable the fragile political situation becomes to extremists seeking to undermine our democratic life," the ex-Cabinet members said.

"The President can be part of the solution to this crisis by making the supreme sacrifice for God and country to voluntarily relinquish her office and allow her constitutional successor, the Vice President, to assume the presidency," they said.

According to the group, resignation is a "legitimate constitutional option" for effecting leadership change and is the "least disruptive and painful option that can swiftly restore normalcy and eventually bring us to prosperity."

The group urged for people to unite behind De Castro and work together in implementing reforms.

Soliman said she and the others intended to return to their respective departments after the news conference "to explain to our colleagues the situation, close documents and our responsibility" to their offices.

In a phone interview, Customs Commissioner Lina said the resignation of Cabinet members mostly belonging to the President's economic team did not constitute economic sabotage.

Not abandonment

"This is not an abandonment of our jobs. We'll man [our posts] until our replacements are named," he said.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla also tendered his resignation after barely four months in office, in compliance with the President's call for the resignation of all members of the Cabinet.

But he called an emergency meeting yesterday morning to map out a transition plan that would ensure the "security of energy installations and fuel supply to avoid any disruptions in the delivery of vital services to the public."

Present at the meeting were key officials of the Department of Energy and of state-run energy firms including the National Power Corp., National Transmission Corp. and Philippine National Oil Co.

While Lotilla was not available for comment, sources said his resignation was irrevocable.

Impaired management

At their own press conference, MBC and Finex said the continuous delay of the promised reforms since the onset of the political crisis further illustrated Ms Arroyo's unwillingness to pursue changes to strengthen damaged institutions.

"After much reflection and analysis on the actions of the last several weeks, we have come to the conclusion that the President's ability to effectively manage the affairs of state has been seriously impaired," they said.

They also said a transition must now take place following the constitutional process of succession.

At the same press conference, a coalition of 21 nongovernment and people's organizations as well as individuals said the resignation of "the more decent and reform-minded members of the Cabinet" confirmed that these officials had given up on any chance for Ms Arroyo to implement reforms.

Coalition of NGOs

"We now have a President who does not have the support of civil society and the majority of the people," they said.

The coalition includes the Caucus of Development NGO Networks, Pagbabago@Pilipinas, National Peace Conference, Western Visayas Network of Social Development NGOs, Federation of Free Farmers, Caucus for Bicol Development, GZO Peace Institute, Mindanao Caucus of Development NGOs, Cordillera Network of Development NGOs, Philippine Partnership for the Development of Rural Areas, National Confederation of Cooperatives, CapizCode, Pascres, Social Democractic Caucus, Aksyon Demokratiko, Philippine Community Organizers Society, LGC-NET, and Pilipina.

Victoria P. Garchitorena, Carmo Magno Miranda and Brenda Batistiana signed up as individuals.

Loss of hope

"We have lost hope that [Ms Arroyo] would put genuine reforms over her personal and political interest," the coalition said.

It added: "After all, she has had four years to have made these reforms, and she has not.

"She has failed us as a leader, and we now call on her to step down and resign from office."

The coalition said it supported a constitutional process of succession. It said the successor to the presidency should form a truth commission to look into the allegations against Ms Arroyo, initiate a revamp of the Commission on Elections and realize social and political reforms.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines' Board of Governors also called on Ms Arroyo to resign.

"President Arroyo must step down immediately to arrest the increasing demoralization of our people, and likewise to stop the deepening economic morass the motherland finds itself in," IBP national president Jose Anselmo I. Cadiz said in a statement.

The country's biggest business group, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stressed that the rule of law should be maintained.

"We cannot force [the President to resign]. We support the constitutional process, including impeachment proceedings," the PCCI said.

Rosales and his fellow prelates decided to take a break from the annual CBCP retreat at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center in Manila, shortly after they got wind that Ms Arroyo was set to speak on national radio at 8 p.m. the other night.

Emergency meeting

By CBCP tradition, bishops are not supposed to do anything unrelated to the retreat, which was supposed to end yesterday afternoon, the sources said.

But the INQUIRER learned that several bishops had been silently meeting with various political groups since the retreat started last Tuesday.

A Church insider mentioned the "faction" of Vice President De Castro and a group of congressmen, but could not say which meeting came first.

"Cardinal Vidal was present in all of the meetings, and other bishops look up to him for his decisions," the source said. "He is deemed the most senior bishop after the death of Jaime Cardinal Sin."

With military, police officials

A group of bishops were set to meet with top police and military officials last night, one of the sources said.

"[The bishops] will ask them to stay apolitical, to remain neutral and uphold the Constitution, to let socio-political leaders handle the crisis," the source said.

The "informal meeting" on Thursday reportedly began at around 7 p.m. and lasted for two hours.

Sought for comment, Fr. Anton Pascual, Caritas Manila executive director, said the Church could "work with any president as long as we respect the sovereign popular will and the rule of law."

Pascual heads the Network of Social Action Centers of the Archdiocese of Manila and its five suffragan diocese in Metro Manila. *With reports from Michelle V. Remo, Cynthia D. Balana, Leila B. Salaverria, and Abigail L. Ho*

THE HYATT 10: Seven Cabinet men and three bureau chiefs surprise the nation with their announcement of their irrevocable resignation saying that the President's decisions these days are guided mainly "by her determination to survive as President." REM ZAMORA

Villa: She was kind to me

RESIGNED Agriculture Secretary Rene Villa said President Arroyo had been very kind to him but his decision to quit the Cabinet went beyond personal matters.

"Her capacity to govern has been impaired," Villa told the INQUIRER.

Reacting to the insistence of militant groups in Negros Occidental that the assumption of Vice President Noli de Castro to the presidency was unacceptable, Villa replied: "We want to see change in leadership through constitutional succession." *Carla P. Gomez and Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Dinky: Decisions for survival

By Luige A. del Puerto

FORMER Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman told her staff that she and other Cabinet members resigned because they felt the decisions of President Arroyo were meant to save her rather than to govern.

"This is not her [Soliman's] exact words, but she said her [Ms Arroyo's] decisions were more for survival than for governance," a staff of the former secretary told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Quoting Soliman and speaking on condition of anonymity, the staffer said the Cabinet secretaries' decision to resign en masse was reached during the past two days.

Soliman also said they revised their press statement announcing their decision to quit around six times the other night.

The staffer said that, according to Soliman, Ms Arroyo's declaration the other night asking her entire cabinet to quit was meant to preempt the resignations.

Soliman spoke with her immediate staff and the DSWD directors some two hours after the Cabinet secretaries announced their resignation. She was teary-eyed at one point, but she did not break down, the source said.

According to Soliman, she and other Cabinet members talked to Ms Arroyo in May to ask her to institute several reforms, and most of the secretaries who resigned had asked the President to break her silence on the "Gloriatapes."

"She had good words for the President," the staff said. "She is praying that Ms Arroyo will step down."

Sto. Tomas: I was about to...

By Christine O. Avendano

AN 11TH senior official could have joined the call for President Arroyo to resign but Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas decided against joining the group.

Sto. Tomas told reporters yesterday the group had asked her to join them.

"I said I was going to resign . . . but I am not going to embarrass the President," Sto. Tomas said.

Asked if she thought what the group did was tantamount to embarrassing Ms Arroyo, Sto. Tomas said: "You're asking your boss to resign. That's not embarrassing?"

Sto. Tomas admitted she was at the Hyatt Regency hotel with the group of Cabinet officials who gathered there Thursday night on the eve of announcing their mass resignation.

She had gone there to talk to Budget Secretary Emma Boncodin, one of those who quit, but she finally decided to go home at 1 a.m.

Sto. Tomas said the group had been discussing for some time the issues confronting Ms Arroyo.

"We're adults. We make decisions based on what we feel," Sto. Tomas said.

She said Ms Arroyo's call for her Cabinet to resign did not come as a surprise because as early as two weeks ago, some of the Cabinet members had even suggested to the President to "declare the positions vacant."

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Tutors go on mass leave, seek pay hike

By Tina G. Santos

CLASSES in most public elementary and high schools in Manila were canceled yesterday after 8,000 teachers went on a mass leave to dramatize their demand for a salary increase and a bigger budget for education.

Benjie Valbuena, president of the 10,000-strong Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA), said that of the 103 public elementary and high schools in the city, 73 were affected by the teachers' protest action. He added that they would also ask for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The mass leave came in the middle of the growing political crisis Ms Arroyo is facing.

The militant Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) claimed that the unprecedented education crisis was aggravated by the Arroyo administration's prioritization of debt payments over education and other social services.

"Our salaries have been frozen for four years and counting. Malacañang has been slashing education expenditures annually. Teachers have had enough," said ACT chair Antonio Tinio.

Apart from a P3,000 across-the-board increase, the teachers also asked the government for an additional budget for education.

"The government continues to remain uncommitted to any wage increase while prices of basic necessities, such as food, electricity and water rates, continue to rise," Valbuena said.

"This is also historic since this is the first mass leave held by the teachers since 1990," Tinio said.

A neophyte teacher receives a total of P10,000 in monthly wages—P8,000 in basic pay plus a P2,000 allowance from City Hall.

"It's high time that the government prove that we are on its list of priorities by granting us our demands for decent pay and basic reforms in education. Our demands are valid and legitimate," Valbuena said, adding that the protest action had long been planned and that this had the "blessing" of both parents and students.

"We met with the Parents Teachers Committee Association before we decided to push through with the mass leave. The teachers and students understand and support us," he added.

However, the protest action was downplayed by some city school officials who said classes in several schools pushed through despite the absence of most teachers.

Isabelita Santos, Division of City Schools assistant superintendent for high school, said morning classes, particularly in high school, were not affected because the principals made arrangements with department heads, librarians and other school personnel.

"With the aid of modules, lectures were carried out as planned by these school personnel," Santos said.

She said that of the total 3,225 elementary school teachers expected to hold classes yesterday, 2,661 (82.52 percent) showed up. In high schools, only 895 (47.89 percent) out of the 1,869 teachers went to school. She added that they would get the names of the teachers who joined the mass leave.

"That's SOP (standard operating procedure). They should be ready to face the consequences of their action," Santos said. *With Alcuin Papa*

Mindanao might break away

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AS EVENTS were fast unfolding in Metro Manila yesterday, Christian Mindanao and Muslim Mindanao were preparing to break away from the Republic of the Philippines.

But Mindanao leaders were not of one mind on when to separate from the republic.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, at the forefront of the new, Christian-led Mindanao independence movement, told this writer to wait for the next 72 hours.

Christian Mindanao, he said, might declare independence if President Macapagal-Arroyo, resolutely holding on to the reins of power, were ousted unconstitutionally. In short, by "people power" or military junta.

But former Transportation Secretary and Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez said, "With or without GMA, we should declare independence."

Alvarez, spokesperson of One People Mindanao, and Duterte are allies in the Mindanao independence movement.

Muslim Mindanao, or the province covered by the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Alvarez said, would soon declare its own independence.

If Christian Mindanao didn't break away from the republic after Muslim Mindanao declared a separate Moro nation, "we might be eaten up by the Muslims."

Alvarez's exact words to me were "*basi kaunon ta sa mga* Moros, *bay*."

But Duterte was more restrained: "Let's wait and see what happens within the next 72 hours, Mon."

According to Alvarez, most leaders in Christian Mindanao had "expressed support" for declaring Mindanao an independent state. One of them is North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Pinol, also a very influential figure in the region.

Alvarez said that if Christian Mindanao didn't move soon, it might be overtaken by fast-unfolding events in Metro Manila.

"It might be too late for us to declare independence if we continued to be passive," he said.

Asked why he and Duterte didn't agree on when to declare independence, Alvarez said that the Davao City mayor was trying to tread on safe ground because he's a government official.

"I can talk like this because I am no longer with the government," Alvarez said.

The scenario painted to this writer was that Christian Mindanao would declare a separate republic, but allow the Muslims to have their own nation.

Mindanao is the country's second biggest island, next to Luzon. The region produces 60 percent of the country's wealth, but gets only a 15-percent share in the national budget.

Mindanao is like California. If California seceded from the United States, it would still become the No. 2 economy next to the US, because it is self-sufficient in natural and food resources.

Should Mindanao break away from the republic, it would overtake the Philippines by a mile in economic progress, Alvarez and Duterte told me.

UP School of Economics hosts 2nd youth congress

THE UP School of Economics Student Council and the UP Economics Society will hold the 2nd Youth Congress on July 16, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Diosdado Macapagal Hall in UP Diliman, Quezon City. The theme of the congress for high school students is "Game Theory and Forex Market: A Practical Approach." Schools can send as many as 10 students and an adviser. Registration fee is P200 per person. Interested students may call Jill at 0917-5070796 for details.

Muntinlupa City foundry may reopen soon

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THERE may be a second chance for this industrial plant.

The Muntinlupa City government said it may allow Makati Foundry Inc. to operate again after city officials conducted an ocular inspection of the plant the other day.

Makati Foundry Inc. (MFI), an establishment engaged in iron-melting since 1977, was padlocked last weekend by the city government. Residents earlier complained of fumes and waste allegedly emitted by the plant.

In a complaint, Tez Navarro, representing JPA Subdivision, had said that the plant had resumed its operations despite the revocation of its business permit last year.

Plant engineer Mario Garcia said in a previous interview that the MFI had not operated since its request for a business permit was denied in January. In a letter sent to the INQUIRER the other day, he also pointed out that the plant had passed the standards of the Environmental Management Bureau.

Garcia also clarified that the MFI's operations were restricted to the "finishing" stage where no iron-melting was involved, since the local government had not granted them a permit to operate.

A visit on Thursday morning revealed that water coming from the plant during a heavy downpour was an overflow from the National Road, with the MFI serving as a channel and JPA Subdivision as the catch basin.

The inspection team was composed of the committee on health and sanitation under Councilor Luisa Echavez; City Health Officer Dr. Magdalena Meana; Navarro; Barangay Tunasan chair Manuel Solomon, and other barangay officials.

Asked when the plant could resume operation, Meana said it was "all up to the MFI." She added that once the plant's induction furnace has been reactivated, which would eliminate the emission of the alleged "nauseating odor," they would conduct another evaluation of the plant.

If the MFI passes the evaluation, it would be issued a permit to operate, Meana said.

Garcia said he was glad to hear about the local government's decision. The plant employs at least 120 workers.

Meanwhile, MFI owner Gonzalo Ang told the team that the plant's drainage system had been unclogged, thus rerouting the overflow. He added that the plant's pipe would be expanded to accommodate the water from the highway.

He also assured the team that they would cooperate with the president of the JPA Homeowners Association to minimize flooding and prevent air pollution. The MFI has been religiously doing community service, such as fixing the drainage system of nearby subdivisions, Garcia said.

"The plant, after all, has been part of Muntinlupa for some time now," he added.

Judge in Roldan kidnap case suspends transfer

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SAYING that his life is in danger, a co-accused of actor and former congressman Dennis Roldan in a kidnapping case is asking the Pasig City Regional Trial Court to exclude him from his scheduled transfer to the Pasig City Jail.

Octavio Garces has told the court that his life would be in danger if he was transferred with four other accused in the kidnapping of a 3-year-old boy in February.

Garces earlier testified that Roldan and his fellow accused Suzette Wang masterminded the kidnapping.

Judge Agnes Carpio has ordered the transfer of Garces, Noel San Andres, Rowena San Andres, Romeo Orcajada and Adrian Domingo from the Philippine National Police Detention Cell and the Philippine Anti-Crime and Emergency Response in Camp Crame to the Pasig City Jail.

"(Garces') commitment at the Pasig City Jail, together with his co-accused, will certainly pose danger to his life and limb," his lawyers said in the motion.

Yesterday, the four other accused also asked the court to stop their transfer, citing humanitarian reasons.

Because of the motions, the court suspended the transfer of the five accused. It is expected to resolve the matter on Monday.

In his motion, Garces said he and his family had been receiving death threats.

"There is a good ground and reason to believe that people identified with my co-accused are out to harm my family," he said.

The prosecution had also asked the court to issue a commitment order against Roldan. But the court rejected the motion, saying the case against him was still under preliminary investigation.

The court earlier suspended the proceedings for the case against Roldan and sent it back to the justice department after the actor claimed he had not been given his right to a preliminary investigation.

In another order, Carpio also ordered the issuance of a hold departure against Wang.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following items to be delivered to different points in the Philippines:

FARM MACHINERIES, IMPLEMENTS AND VEHICLES
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for Sugar-ACEF Related Projects
Approved Budget for the Contract – Php 6,073,835.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	July 4-22, 2005 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	July 27, 2005 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:
The Bidding Secretariat – Telephone No. 929-68-37

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI – July 2 & 9, 2005)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE and
LEAGUE OF PROVINCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS SUMMIT
Century Park Hotel, Manila
May 27, 2005

COVENANT OF SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW LANDS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

RECOGNIZING the priority thrust of Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to develop at least two million hectares of new lands for agribusiness as part of achieving her Ten Point Legacy Agenda, particularly on the creation of six to ten million jobs from 2005-2010, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), together with various Financial Institutions and the Private Sector, convened the National Agribusiness Summit to formulate action plans and implementing strategies to accelerate the development of new lands for agribusiness;

REALIZING the need to implement this thrust of the President at the provincial level and in consideration of its direct impact on alleviating poverty and uplifting the lives of Filipino farmers and fisherfolk, various models on the development of new lands for agribusiness were presented and discussed for nationwide adoption and replication;

THEREFORE, WE, the Participants to this Summit, cognizant of our respective roles and responsibilities, sign this Covenant as our pledge to undertake the following:

1. To fully support and help attain the development of at least two (2) million hectares of new lands for agribusiness by 2010, **we, the Participants**, will adopt the best practices of existing agribusiness models that are appropriate for our local situation, consistent with the development strategies of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plant 2005-2010;
2. To accomplish the national and provincial targets in the development of new lands for agribusiness from 2005-2010, **we, the Governors,** hereby commit to implement specific projects and activities that shall include: (a) validation of identified sites, (b) capability-building of farmer and fisherfolk cooperators, (c) crop-livestock-fishery diversification & intensification projects in underutilized lands (mostly located in coconut areas) and inland bodies of water, (d) development of idle and marginal public and private lands, (e) provision of farm inputs, (f) promotion of farm mechanization, (g) construction and rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads, and (h) establishment of off-farm (agro-processing) and non-farm enterprises. For this purpose, we shall immediately formulate our respective Provincial Action Plans in consultation with the DA and set aside local funds therefor, and submit the plans and budget to the DA within thirty (3) days from the signing of this Covenant;
3. As prime movers of agriculture and fisheries modernization in our respective provinces, **we, the Governors,** hereby commit to include in our annual local development and investment plans the specific budgetary appropriations to support the development of new lands for agribusiness, and mobilize our respective extension personnel (agriculturists, agricultural engineers and veterinarians), including those in the municipal government units, to help in project implementation. For this purpose, we shall immediately issue our respective Provincial Executive Orders prescribing guidelines on the development of new lands for agribusiness;
4. As a critical component in ensuring project viability and sustainability in the development of new lands for agribusiness, **we, the Private Sector,** composed of food processors, marketers, agricultural machinery and input suppliers, among others, hereby commit to undertake contract-growing schemes and forward contracting agreements with farmer and fisherfolk cooperators and to develop idle and underutilized public and private lands through lease or joint venture arrangements;
5. To enhance public-private partnership in the development of new lands for agribusiness, **we, the Private Sector,** shall utilize the National Sectoral Committees and the local Agricultural and Fishery Councils under the National Agriculture and Fishery Council (NAFC) as a forum to discuss issues and concerns of the private sector and other stakeholders;
6. As the lead implementing agency in the development of new lands for agribusiness, **we, the Department of Agriculture**, hereby commit to facilitate market linkages and credit support, promote stakeholders participation, train the LGU extension personnel and provide technical assistance and funding support through counterpart schemes with the Provincial Governments for farm production inputs and machineries, establishment of nurseries and model farms, small scale irrigation projects, farm to market roads and post harvest facilities, among others;

AND FINALLY, WE, the Officials authorized by the Participants of this National Agribusiness Summit, hereby adopt this Covenant and affix our respective signatures this 27th Day of May, 2005 at the Century Park Hotel, Manila.

HON. ERICO B. AUMENTADO
Governor of the Province of Bohol
National President
League of Provinces of the Philippines

HON. ARTHUR C. YAP
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

JOSEPH H. WOOD, JR.
Chairman
RAFC Association of the Philippines
(representing the Private Sector/
Local Agricultural and Fishery Councils)

VICENTE H. LIM, JR.
Chairman
NAFC Food Crops Commitee
(representing the Private Sector/
National Sectoral Committees)

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MOTOR SPORTS: 2005 F1 British Grand Prix Qualifying; 8 p.m.; STAR Sports—Find out who gains pole position.

BILLIARDS: 2005 World Pool Championship; 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. (r); 9 p.m.; ESPN—Catch the replay of quarterfinals then witness the semifinals take place live from Taiwan.

CYCLING: Tour de France, Stage 7; 4:30 p.m.; ESPN—Lance Armstrong continues his bid for his seventh yellow jersey.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Agojo lands fifth

JAYVIE Agojo lost her touch on the sleek putting surface of the Sutera Harbour Golf and Country Club and limped home with a closing five-over par 77 yesterday, settling for fifth place in the Pharmaton Malaysian Ladies Amateur Golf Championship in Kota Kinabalu.

It was an unlikely fold-up for the reigning RP Ladies Open champion, who started the final round tied for the lead with Thai Tiranun Yoopan and K. Dayanitha of Malaysia, but struggled with her balky putter all day.

Thailand's Poraini Chutichai came from behind to rule the event with a 54-hole aggregate of 219, three-over par.

Agojo opened with a 73, then fired a 74 in the second although she remained on top with Dayanitha and Yoopan.

Yoopan fired a 73 to place second with a 220 while Malaysian Jean Tze Chua took third with a 221. Pennapa Pulsawath, also of Thailand, finished fourth with 222 while Agojo and Dayanitha shared fifth with 224s.

Manalo enters Final 8

MANALO: Second straight shutout victory in Kaohsiung

PDI PHOTO

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan—Marlon Manalo kept his golden touch in the thick of mounting pressure as he scored his second consecutive shutout, routing Taiwanese Chen Ying-chieh, 11-0, to barge into the quarterfinals of the 2005 World Pool Championship here yesterday.

Manalo, a former snooker specialist from Mandaluyong City, will face 2001 World Pool Championship winner Mika Immonen of Finland, 11-8 conqueror of American Cory Deuel, in today's round-of-8 at the Kaohsiung Business Exhibition Center.

Coming off a 10-0 rout of another Taiwanese, Huang Chien-che, in the round-of-32, Manalo looked like a man on a mission as he pounced on the hapless Chen from the opening break and played nearly flawless pool.

"All the responsibility is now with me to carry the flag after the other Filipinos were eliminated," said Manalo. "There's a lot of pressure, but I enjoy it and it helps me concentrate better. I feel comfortable and confident right now, but I'll just take it rack by rack."

His lone flaw was a scratch on the 11th rack which Manalo committed after an attempt on the two-ball that ruined an otherwise prefect night. Nevertheless, Chen couldn't capitalize as he missed a shot on the 3-ball, leaving Manalo to clean up the rack and claim victory.

With the win, Manalo avenged countryman Gandy Valle's 9-10 loss to Chen in the round-of-32.

Defending champion Alex Pagulayan bowed out late Thursday, losing to former world junior champ Vilmos Foldes of Hungary, 11-8, in one of the most exciting matches in the series.

Foldes fell to Nick Van Derverg of the Netherlands yesterday.

The 29-year-old Filipino, who has now won 23 straight racks, is now guaranteed a prize of $10,000 for making it to the final eight. Manalo also was a quarterfinalist in last year's event.

One hundred and twenty eight of the world's best cue artists competed in Kaohsiung for the top prize of $75,000 (P4.2 million).

The 2005 World Pool Championship will run until Sunday when the semifinal and final rounds will be completed.

The event is organized by Match Room and broadcast over ESPN, which will be devoting over 60 hours of live and exclusive coverage of the world's biggest and most prestigious pool competition.

Beermen grab 3-1 series edge vs Pals

GAME TOMORROW (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
(*Game 5 best-of-seven Finals*)
6:40 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs San Miguel Beer

By June Navarro

DONDON Hontiveros and Ace Custis went on a shooting spree as San Miguel Beer whipped Talk 'N Text, 87-82, and moved to the threshold of winning the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference Finals last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Hontiveros drained six three-pointers, three of them in a crucial San Miguel third-quarter breakaway that neutralized the Phone Pals' gutsy stand after coming back from 16 points down.

Custis also waxed hot from the outside and backstopped Hontiveros by scoring 16 of his 20 points in the final half as the Beermen went on to take a 3-1 advantage in the best-of-seven series and move a game away from their 17th crown overall.

"We're ahead but we have this bad tendency to relax and that happened when we were two games up," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico.

"I hope it won't happen in Game 5 because I'm sure they (Phone Pals) will come up with adjustments on Sunday."

Danny Ildefonso, a leading contender for the Finals MVP award, came out with another consistent performance by banging in 12 points and grabbing eight rebounds against Asi Taulava and Jerald Honeycutt.

By winning Game 4, history will definitely be on the side of the Beermen. San Miguel always wins the championship with a 3-1 lead in the series and it happened twice under coach Uichico.

Of the last 17 teams which took a 3-1 advantage in a best-of-seven series, only one team in league history had battled back from such deficit and won the championship.

The Phone Pals must duplicate the feat of the 1991 Barangay Ginebra squad, which did the trick and captured the 1991 First Conference title at the expense of Shell.

"We'll try to get it on Sunday. But I'm certain they will come up with something in Game 5," said Uichico.

Meanwhile, Barangay Ginebra's Eric Menk was named Most Valuable Player during the awards night held before the game. Rich Alvarez won Rookie of the Year honors.

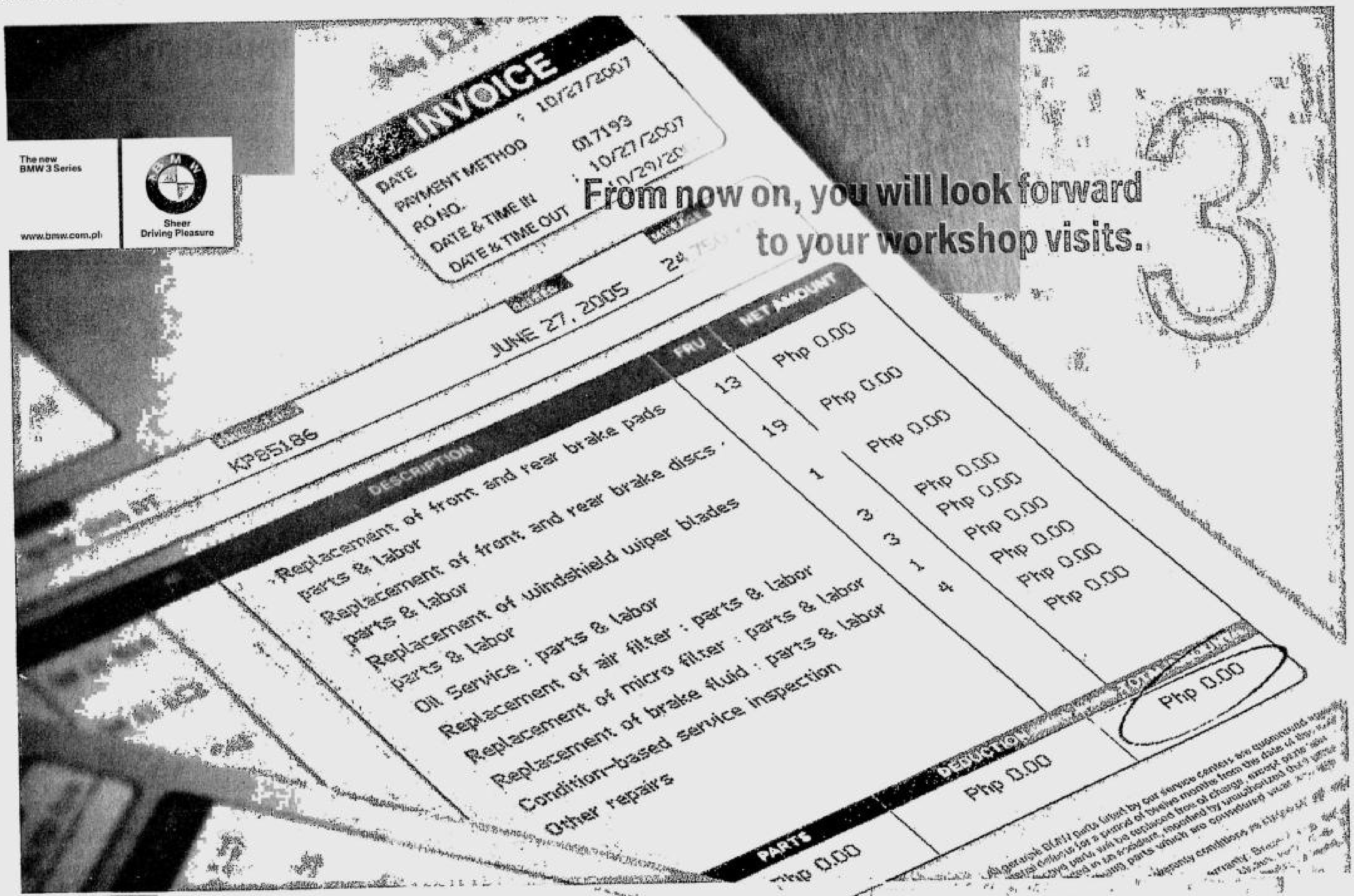
Rico Villanueva was named Most Improved Player while the Sportsmanship award went to Hontiveros.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL 87—Hontiveros 24, Custis 20, Ildefonso 12, Belasco 9, Racela 8, Peña 8, Seigle 4, Villoria 2, Adriano 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 82—Alapag 17, Honeycutt 16, Miller 13, Taulava 12, Pablo 10, Telan 7, Ravena 3, Carey 2, Camaso 2, Belano 0

Quarters: 32-18, 42-33, 71-60, 87-82.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SOLID LINEUP

Tams picked as UAAP starts

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
1 p.m.—Opening ceremonies
2 p.m.—UP vs UST (Srs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs UE (Srs)

THERE were cautious predictions as the 68th University Athletic Association of the Philippines unfolds today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Far Eastern University Tamaraws, tabbed as the team to beat this year, cautioned against great expectations when they kick off their campaign against the University of the East Warriors at 4 p.m.

"Right now, our goal is just to be in the Final Four," said new Tamaraws coach Bert Flores.

University of the Philippines will battle University of Sto. Tomas at 2 p.m., right after the opening ceremonies at 1 p.m.

The Tamaraws, with a solid lineup, will again be pillared by 2004 Most Valuable Player Arwind Santos.

But Dindo Pumaren's young, spunky Warriors, who unexpectedly entered the Final Four last season, have always shown the capacity to beat the odds.

"We have very young starters, but compared to last year, we have a second group," said Pumaren, who will bank on 2004 Rookie of the Year Marcy Arellano.

The blockbuster bout between defending champions La Salle Archers and the Ateneo Eagles will fire off tomorrow at 4 p.m.

Host Adamson Falcons and the National University Bulldogs will clash at 2 p.m.

Franz Pumaren, who will be gunning for his 100th career win against the Archers' long-time rivals, noted however that the La Salle is fielding a smaller lineup this season.

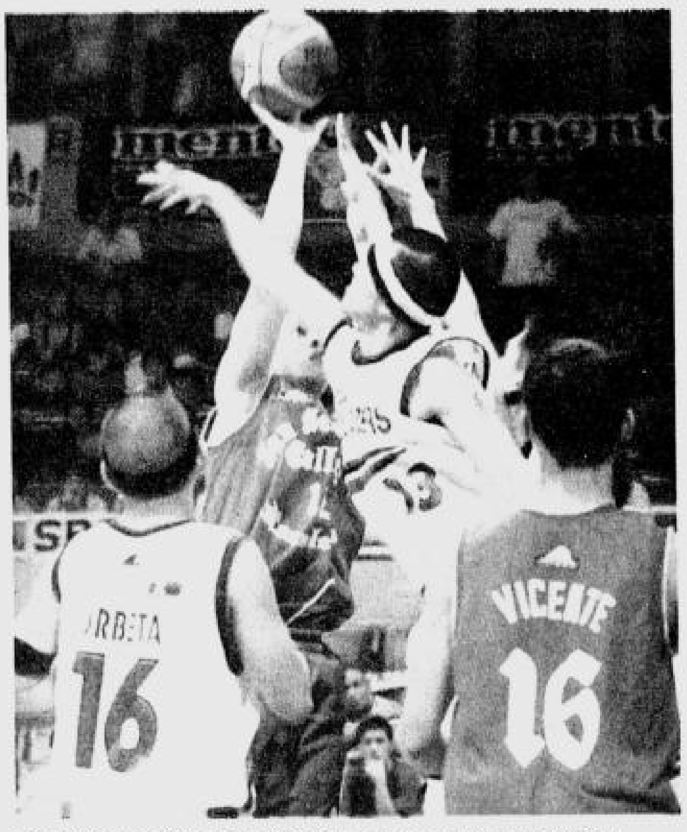
"We have to be assertive and aggressive to offset our lack in height and experience," said Pumaren.

The Archers will anchor their title defense on shooting guard Joseph Yeo after league star Mac Cardona decided to skip his final eligibility year to join the pros.

Pumaren will be facing his former PBA coach Norman Black, who will call the shots for Ateneo this year.

The Eagles, who last won the title in 2002, will still turn to ace point guard LA Tenorio.

"We're preparing the best we can," said Black. "I have a lot of respect for La Salle. They're a very talented team." *Jasmine W. Payo*


MARK Santos of San Sebastian fires a jumper over St. Benilde's Gerald Layug (13) yesterday. RYAN LIM

15-pt. Letran win disappoints coach

By Jasmine W. Payo

JONATHAN Aldave took control in the final stretch as Letran stopped surging Jose Rizal U, 65-50, in the 81st NCAA yesterday but the win failed to impress the winning coach.

Aldave, who drilled 20 points, sank two key triples in the final two minutes to put the lead back in double figures, 60-50, after the Bombers threatened within five points at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Veteran forward Aaron Aban topscored with 21 points—10 from the first quarter—and grabbed nine rebounds.

Coach Louie Alas, however, felt disappointed with the Knights' fourth straight victory.

"We were outrebounded, we were not consistent," said Alas. "I'm not happy with our energy level."

Earlier, the San Sebastian Stags scored their first win after disposing the streaking St. Benilde Blazers, 67-63.

The Stags improved to a 1-3 record behind the strong fourth-quarter effort of senior forward Leo Najorda.

Najorda, who kept the Stags ahead in the closing minutes, delivered an all-around performance with 11 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Red Vicente powered the Stags' offense early in the final period for a team-high 19 points.

"In our first three games, our new players couldn't keep up with the system," said long-time mentor Turo Valenzona after the Stags halted the Blazers' three-game winning run. "We only have a few veterans. But in this game, I see no reason we could not win."

The Blazers slipped to 3-1.

Earlier, the Staglets thumped the Greenies, 79-52, in the juniors division. Eric Salamat scored 18 points.

The scores:

Third game

LETRAN 65—Aban 21, Aldave 20, Bautista 6, Balneg 5, Rodriguez 4, Andaya 3, Quinday 2, Jazul 0, Mondragon 0, Realista 0, Piñera 0.

JRU 50—Jorge 11, Dedicatoria 10, Tala 10, Mañiego 8, Domancas7, Reyes 2, Fenequito 2, Golena 0, Sena 0, Japson 0, Natividad 0, San Luis 0, Yuzon 0.

Quarters: 25-12, 40-29, 52-45, 65-50.

SPORTSWATCH

Mild Seven F1 Club features French GP

AFTER a fantastic win by Mild Seven Renault's Fernando Alonso from start to finish in the French GP, focus moves on to the British GP tomorrow. Alonso has stretched his lead over Kimi Raikkonen and Michael Schumacher with only nine races left. The Mild Seven F1 Club in Speedzone, Ft. Bonifacio, was in riotous spirits when Alonso won the race and will show the British GP live at 7 p.m. McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen drove a fantastic race from 13th place and even outran Ferrari's Michael Schumacher in the closing stages. The fastest club in the Philippines is sponsored by Mild Seven, Speedzone, JVC, Puma footwear and apparel, Colt 45, Colt Ice, Lonestar Ultra and Light Beers, MP Turbo and Speed with official radio stations Joey 92.3 and Monster RX 93,1 FM. The Mild Seven F1 Club is open to all race enthusiasts 18 years and older. For info, call 0919-4921575.

Jao eyes 3rd Advance Superbikes sweep

DEFENDING champion Jolet Jao guns for a third straight sweep today in the third leg of the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Bgy. Maligaya, Rosario, Batangas. His exceptional skills and the efficiency of his reliable Kawasaki pivoted his sweep of the first two races and another win will solidify his bid for a ninth superbike crown in the event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association. With a perfect 100 points, Jao's way ahead of Roderick Chua and Benjo Mendoza of Speedeflex who are currently tied for second with 69 points apiece. Randy Ortiz is fourth overall with 56 while Philip Alvendia of Malayan Motorcycle 1 National Superbike Championship Team is fifth with 46. Completing the cast are Julian Goitia, Julian Diego, Inaki Araneta, Simon Salenda, Miguel Ripoll, Miguel Bichara, Roberto del Rosario and Mervin Estrella.

Asuncions enter badminton finals

SIBLINGS Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion moved within a win of retaining their respective singles crowns in the elite masters of the JVC Open Badminton Championships by posting victories in the semifinal round yesterday at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City. RP team mainstay Lloyd Escoses came away with the biggest victory at the expense of two-time champion Ian Piencenaves, 15-8, 15-11. He arranged a showdown with Kennevic for the top P25,000 purse in the centerpiece event. Kennie, the spearhead of Golden Shuttle Foundation who is eyeing her fifth straight title in the ladies singles, swamped fellow RP pool member and Manila Polo Club bet Vanessa Tangco, 11-0, 11-1, to set up a title clash with Irene Chiu of Ateneo. Chiu ripped fellow national team mainstay Alma Ledesma, 11-5, 11-5. Kennevic subdued Arolas Amahit, 15-7, 13-15, 15-6, in the first semis match of the men's class.

Las Piñas 3-cock derby tonight

COCKERS and breeders of Cavite, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Parañaque collide anew in another tough 3-cock derby tonight at the fully air-condititioned Las Piñas Coliseum, with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. A cash prize of P300,000 is staked in this event to be hosted by Dr. Ted Macadagdag (DTM Credentials) and Jover Dilao (Jhezil Farms). Entry fee is P5,500. For details, call 873-1040 and 874-3910. Las Piñas Coliseum is also gearing up for the "Annual Las Pinas 6-Stag Derby" on Aug. 25 and 27, to be hosted by Mayor Nene Aguilar. Stags screening will start on Aug. 1. Screening will be held every Saturday and Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the LPC office. The stagfest requires an entry fee of P15,000 for a prize of P1 million.

Makati Coliseum derby unfolds today

VETERAN cocker-sportsman Lito Alcantara will host today's "LA 939 Group 3-Cock Derby" at the air-conditioned Makati Coliseum with more than 50 exciting fights. Seeing action are cockers and breeders of Rizal, Batangas, Laguna, Makati, Pasay, Parañaque, San Juan, Pasig and Pateros. Call 896-3545 or 895-6475 and 895-6453 for details. Two more 3-cock derbies are slated on July 16 (All Captains Tuesday Club) and July 25 (WTJ Employees). Well-known promoters Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola will host the "Daytime 4-Cock Derby" on Aug. 3, with P500,000 in guaranteed prize.

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No way for RP team to play in Doha championship

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

HOPES were raised when a supposedly well-informed sports personality pronounced that the Philippine team training under coach Chot Reyes could still compete as a wild card entry in the Fiba-Asia Men's Championship scheduled in Doha, Qatar, this September, despite the FIBA suspension.

"*Tuloy ang* training, *tuloy ang* preparations for the September Fiba-Asia championship," said San Miguel Corp.'s external relations manager Robert Non the other day during halftime of the championship game between SMB and Talk and Text.

"Talk to Chot, he'll explain how we can participate as a wild card," Robert urged.

* * *

The first thing I did after my talk with Robert was to check with BAP deputy secretary general Lito Alvarez to determine if this was possible.

Lito replied after some minutes, explaining that wild card entries are only allowed in the World Basketball Championship and the entry still has to go through a qualifying tournament.

"I don't know if this was allowed in the ABC before, but it is definitely no longer allowed in the Fiba-Asia now," said Lito.

A Fiba official later confirmed this. No wild card entries in the Fiba-Asia championship. The Philippines is completely out of this contest, even if the Fiba ban is lifted before the event.

This is because we failed to participate in the SEABA, where the top two finishers officially qualify for the Fiba-Asia championship for men.

One consolation though is that we can still compete in the Southeast Asian Games scheduled here in Manila this November, provided the Fiba suspension on the Philippines is lifted.

For this to happen, all the POC has to do is reinstate the BAP.

* * *

It's all water under the bridge now, but for the record, PBA commissioner Noli Eala wrote a letter last July 4 appealing to Fiba Internationale Secretary General Patrick Baumannto to allow the BAP-formed RP squad to play in the Seaba.

Baumann replied the very same day, although his letter was addressed to BAP president Joey Lina, with copies furnished to POC and the Fiba. I am reprinting his short missive in full hereunder:

Dear Mr. President:

We acknowledge receipt of a correspondence from the Commissioner of the PBA addressed today to the Secretary General of Fiba asking to allow the participation of the Philippines in the Seaba competition.

I regret to inform you that our decision stands firm and no Philippine team whatsoever can participate in the Seaba competition, unless the POC reverses fully and irrevocably the decision taken on June 30 to expel BAP.

Do not hesitate to inform the PBA Commissioner accordingly. (Signed: Patrick Baumann)

The Seaba tournament, which started July 5, ends today.

* * *

HOOPVINE: Although it will take four months following surgery before Enrico Villanueva's nose heals fully, the Red Bull cager is up and about and was in fact at the Araneta Coliseum in Game One of the final series to cheer for his team which figured in the battle for third place against Shell. Rico will have to wear a mask when he reports for active duty next season, just like TNT's Willie Miller who said he considers his accident a blessing in disguise... "Jackpot *ako*, boss, *tumangos ang ilong ko,* " he told Al Panlilio, following his 'jack-up' operation.... We never did see if Barako Warren Ibañez had to wear a neck brace for his whiplash injury. The important thing is, he has been nursed back to health.... Speaking of injuries, San Miguel Beer team manager Samboy Lim had another one added to his long list when he played in the Greatest Game to celebrate the PBA's 30th anniversary last May. Samboy had to undergo surgery for an old knee injury that recurred and to remove bone spurs that grew in the vicinity of the injury.... Michel Lhuillier (not Jean Henri) has reportedly turned down an offer to buy an existing PBA franchise.... A concerned Elmer Yanga, former PBA governor, sent us this text message the other day: "The FIBA suspension is really a very unfortunate incident. For the good of Philippine basketball, I hope and pray that we can all agree for the greatest good of all, sooner, not later. Our sad situation now in basketball is the same situation our country is in at the moment. Let there be peace and let it begin with each of us."

Valle Verde, Mandaluyong Tennis Club part ways

VALLE Verde Country Club and Mandaluyong Tennis Club part ways as co-leaders at 4 p.m. today at the start of the second round of the 1st Prince Home and Away Interclub Tennis 2005 at the latter's homecourt in Mandaluyong City. They both finished the first round with 4-1 cards. Valle Verde is coming off a 4-3 win over erstwhile pacesetter Philippine Columbian Association last Saturday and Mandaluyong TC from a 6-1 win over Eusebio Tennis Club. PCA, now also 4-1, plays host to Capitol (0-5) at 2 p.m.

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Pacman golf tilt for poor athletes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THIS time Manny Pacquiao makes a big swing for indigent athletes.

After dabbling in billiards, cockfighting and, briefly, basketball, Pacquiao plans to hold a fund-raising golf tournament for the benefit of 50 indigent and active national athletes that he will personally pick.

The tournament is tentatively set for July 28 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Asked about his golf game, Pacquiao proudly told reporters: "I can take a swing with either my left or right hand."

Fresh from a legal triumph after securing a settlement of undisclosed amount from American promoter Murad Muhammad, Pacquiao was overflowing with ideas, including putting up a pro-boxing promotion and staying in the United States for six straight months to facilitate his green card application.

The boxing celebrity posed with food attendants at the Alda's Restaurant in Malate dressed in resplendent orange long-sleeved polo and sporting a gold Rolex wristwatch reportedly costing $10,000.

He singled out track superstar Elma Muros-Posadas on the list of recipients that would be composed of past boxing champs and other active athletes "who have brought honor to the country."

Pacquiao said about 25 of the beneficiaries would be aging boxers who have brought glory to the country but who are suffering financial difficulties.

To be dubbed the Manny Pacquiao Promotions, the outfit will initially pit national champions from different categories before eventually venturing into international title fights.

ASTC accepts Syria, Mongolia in its fold

THE ASIAN Triathlon Confederation (ASTC) has increased the number of its member countries from 14 to 16 with the acceptance of Syria and Mongolia into its fold.

This was one of the major decisions made by the ASTC at its recent Congress in Singapore just prior to the highly successful 14th Asian Triathlon Championship that drew over 3,000 participants in the two-day event.

Aside from the two new members, the ASTC, presently headed by South Korean Kyung Sun Yu, is made up of host Singapore, South Korea, China, Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong-China, Macau-China, India, Japan, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Nepal and the Philippines.

Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) president Tom Carrasco Jr. is a senior vice president in the ASTC at the same time that he is the Asian representative to the executive board of the International Triathlon Union where the ASTC is affiliated together with 106 countries worldwide.

ASTC hopes to increase its membership before the 2006 Asian Games take place in Qatar where triathlon makes its debut at the quadrennial Asian regional games.

PHILIPPINE bets Kheith Lhynne Cruz and Ian Nietes Lariba during the awarding ceremonies of the 11th South East Asian Junior Table Tennis Championships held recently in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Lariba (center) and Cruz landed second place in the Girls' Doubles under 15 years old.

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NISSAN ILOILO (S &J Motors) Tel. Nos. (033) 320-4051 to 53

It's on with SEAG despite turmoil

By Musong R. Castillo

DESPITE the political turmoil threatening the Arroyo administration, key sports officials yesterday assured that the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in Manila will push through as planned.

The biennial event has a special link to the administration, its chief bankroller and No. 1 supporter being First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who is currently in exile in the US.

Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) chair Obet Pagdanganan yesterday met President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has rejected a call by former President Cory Aquino to step down for the good of the country.

"*Tuloy yan* (It will push through)," said Pagdanganan of the SEAG, which the country will host for the third time.

"I think *maaayos din lahat ito* (political situation) in a month.

"I have no doubt that this (SEAG) will push through and that it will be a successful staging," said Pagdanganan, president and chair of the Philippine International Trading Corporation, who was also asked by Ms Arroyo to tender his resignation together with the entire Cabinet.

Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, chief executive officer of the Philsoc and president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, also said that scrapping the Games because of the political situation is not part of the scenario.

The former Tarlac representative, however, admitted that raising funds for the hosting of the Games will become doubly difficult if the political situation does not improve.

Roughly P1.1 billion is needed to hold the Games and the Philsoc has, more or less, only 60 percent of that amount in pledges with Globe, PLDT and the Lucio Tan Group of Companies availing of Gold packages worth P100 million each.

Malacañang, through the President's social fund, will be coughing up another P300 million with the rest to be sourced through the private sector.

In a related development, Cojuangco spokesman Joey Romasanta said that, even with Mike Arroyo in exile, the POC sees no problem in carrying out the godfather program initiated by the FG Sports Foundation.

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Lance keeps lead but rival inches closer

NANCY, France—Heavy downpours, treacherous rain-slickened roads, buffeting winds and a nasty crash in the final dash to the finish line. Not a Tour de France day that Lance Armstrong will want to remember.

The six-time champion came through soaked but unscathed and kept his overall lead Thursday in the three-week race's sixth stage through eastern France, from Troyes to Nancy.

But "it wasn't pretty," said Armstrong, who placed 32nd and finished alongside two of his teammates.

One of the American's main challengers, Alexandre Vinokourov of Kazakhstan, took 19 seconds off Armstrong's lead by dashing ahead in the closing stages to place second. But he still trails Armstrong by 1 minute, 2 seconds overall.

Lorenzo Bernucci of Italy, a 25-year-old racing his first Tour, won at Nancy. He kissed his wedding ring as he crossed the line and dedicated his first victory to his wife.

Armstrong, who plans to retire at the end of the Tour on July 24, is harboring his strength and not fighting for daily wins in this first week so he's fresh for the Alps that come next week—after the riders have enjoyed a well-earned rest day Monday.

Already, fatigue is beginning to show. There were four hills to negotiate on Thursday's 199-kilometer (123.7-mile) ride. Some racers—not including Armstrong or his main rivals—struggled up the final climb, even though it was a molehill compared to the high mountain passes that must be scaled in the Alps and later in the Pyrenees.

"The riders are tired. We had a relatively insignificant climb near the end of the stage but we heard on the race radio that quite a few guys were dropped. That's not normal for this race," Armstrong said.

He blamed the rigorous conditions and the fast pace set by leading squads.

"When you add in the tail winds, the cross winds, the rain, the weather and the high tempo the teams are riding on the front that adds up to some tired guys," he said.

The Tour veers in Germany on Friday. The 228.5-kilometer (142-mile) trek from Luneville to Karlsruhe has a couple of hill climbs in the first third before flattening out. It will likely finish in a bunched sprint at the line.

Again, Armstrong will be looking to stay safe and to avoid the misfortune that befell French racer Christophe Mengin on the tight final right-hand corner at the end of Thursday's route.

Mengin was leading when he slipped and crashed into a safety barrier. The line was almost within sight, less than 1 kilometer (half a mile) away on a crowd-lined finishing straight in central Nancy.

Bernucci and Vinokourov stayed upright and dashed through for their first and second places, respectively. But at least four other racers plowed into the prostrate Mengin and went down, too, creating a jam of bikes and riders that slowed Armstrong.

AP

FASSA BORTOLO

BERNUCCI: For my wife. AFP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Saturday, July 9, 2005

HOLLYWOOD DREAM
Hosted by Eric Quizon

THE DREAM BEGINS JULY 17! The much-talked-about reality show "Hollywood Dream" will finally begin! Find out who will get a chance to fly to New York and Los Angeles, meet Hollywood producers and casting directors, get a Screen Actors Guild card, appear on "As the World Turns" and land a role in 2 movies being produced in Hollywood!

SUNDAY 9:00 PM

ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision			GSIS Member's Hour		Yan Ang Pinoy		Go For Gold		Corporate Billiards League		Original Sin Documentary		Paco Park Presents		Boxing Elorde	
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Kaya Mo Ba 'To		Nginig: The Hidden Files		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Kapamilya Movie Sabado			Kontrobersyal (11:45PM)
ABC 5	Trip Ko 'To	The Basketball Show		Anime Ring Kaisho				Islamusik		Mr. Fighting		Club TV		Wow Maling Mali		Maverick & Ariel	Herman		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos		Extra Challenge		Imbestigador		Idol Ko Si Kap			Showbiz Stripped	
RPN 9				Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Billiards				Deadbolt				Money Talk	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Navy Medicine At War	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop		Japan 9-Ball				Bitag		In This Corner			
SBN 21		SBN Sing Along		Friends Again		SBN Sing Along		Powerline	Gospel Of The Kingdom			Give Us This Day		Behold		The Kingdom Of Jesus Christ		Evening Devotions	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr. Bean	Survivor		The Bachelorette		Gilmore Girls	Studio 23 Present				Reel Deal
MTV Philippines			Carmen & Dave	Whatever Things	Making the Video: Don't Phunk with My Honey	MTV Urban Beats	Dismissed	Room Raiders	Taildaters	One Bad Trip	Punk'D	MTV Hits						MTV Live: Pearl Jam at Madison Square Garden (Part 1)	
MYX		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Presents		Top Of The Pops	MYX Remakes	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Mobile MYX Top Picks	Club MYX	OPM MYX		MYX Live!	
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	International Correspondents	World News	Global Office	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart: Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
ESPN	2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship				Tour De France 2005	2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship							X Games Invitational						
Solar Sports								WTA '05 Nasdaq			Fed Cup Highlights 1st Round '05		Fight	2005 Fivb World Grand Prix				NBA TV Daily	NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus				Barclays Classic Highlights		Porsche md. 4	Porsche md.3	Pepsi 400 Highlights		BD Bora-Bora	Tour De France	Ultimate Fighting Championship				Tour De France	John Deere Classic Day2		
Cinemax				Jagged Edge			Fatal Lessons: The Good Teacher				Hostile Waters (7:25PM)			The Firm					The Bourne Identity
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Earthsea				Earthsea				While I Was Gone				Odyssey			Odyssey (10:35PM)		
Disney Channel	Recess	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lizzie Maguire	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Dinosaur			Mr Bean	That's So Raven	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Aladdin And The King Of Thieves	
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		We Built This City		Extreme Machines		First Time Film Makers		Wild Discovery				The New Detectives		Mummy Autopsy		True Horror	
National Geographic		Pharaoh's Week				Flying Devils		Creature Feature				Be The Creature		The Snake Wranglers	Wild Horizons	Big Bite Nile			
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Wine Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	The Good, The Bad & Huckleberry Hound				Gransazer #1	Batman The Animated Series	Justice League	Fantastic Four	Swat Kats
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Snick: Unfabulous (New)/All Grown Up/My Dad The Rock Star/Drake & Josh				Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	Fine Living Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Modern Girl's Guide	E! True Hollywood Story		Look For Less	Behind The Velvet Ropes
Star World		Stupid Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Miami Vice		Monk		Roswell		Enterprise		TNA Xplosion		The World's Greatest Hoaxes		Cops		The Kumars At No. 42	Arrested Development
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Cheat	Filter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Drawn Together	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Superman II (3:40 PM)					Maximum Velocity			Kazaam			The Missing				The Last Samurai (11:15PM)	
Star Movies	Good Morning Vietnam (2:45 PM)				The Grinch (4:45 PM)				First Knight (6:40 PM)					Shanghai Knights				Alien	
Cinema One	Sabel				Booba				My Movie				Paikot-ikot				The Road Home		
EWTN	Defending Life	Angelus (3:15 PM)	G.K. Chesterton	My Little Angels	The Donut Man	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Black And Roman Catholic	Catholic Compass		The World Over		Fr. John Corapi		Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	The Church And Culture Today	Life on The Rock Encore	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

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Heir Jordan hopes to be like Mike

NDIANAPOLIS—Jeffrey Jordan needs no troduction at the Nike All-America Camp.

The contagious smile, penetrating are, and determined look on his boyish 6-year-old face resemble the features f his world-famous father, Michael, and ffer proof that young Jeffrey is the true eir to the Air Jordan legacy.

If there was any doubt about the lin-age, he wears it proudly on the front of is T-shirt: J-O-R-D-A-N.

But Jordan has come to Indianapolis prove one thing—that he, too, can lay basketball.

"I want to show that I belong here," e said. "I guess I'm not the top one or vo or three or four players in my state, ut I want to show that I can play here nd that I'm not just a name."

For Jordan, a student at Loyola cademy College Prep near Chicago, hat will be a challenge. His father is onsidered by many to be the greatest player in NBA history after leading the Chicago Bulls to six titles, and filling the highlight reels with breathtaking dunks. It was also Michael Jordan who turned Nike from a budding shoe company into a worldwide giant.

Following in those footsteps could intimidate most kids. Not Jeffrey.

"To me, he's just my dad," Jordan said.

Jordan realizes he's different. He stands just 6 feet (1.83 meters)—six inches (15 cm) shorter than his dad—weighs 170 pounds (76 kg), and still remembers the times he attended Bulls practices as a child and watched his father play with an unforgettable fierceness.

Already, Jordan is under scrutiny. As Michael Jordan's son, expectations are higher than normal, reporters are already asking about his vertical jump, and it's virtually impossible to hide even when he's playing with 120 other top junior players.

"That's the greatest basketball player's son," said Jai Lucas, Jordan's roommate this week.

Just two days into the weeklong camp, Jordan has already become the camp's darling.

Everywhere he goes, fans and reporters follow, hoping to get a sneak peek at the younger Jordan and gleam any clue they can about whether he can someday approach his father's greatness.

Being in the spotlight hardly fazes Jordan. Dealing with dozens of reporters, a rare occurrence for someone not ranked among the best of the 2007 class, he answered questions like a pro—laughing, smiling, joking and telling stories while deftly avoiding the temptation to give away any family secrets.

Yet Jordan, who has some leading universities showing interest in him, is intent on carving out his own niche. *AP*

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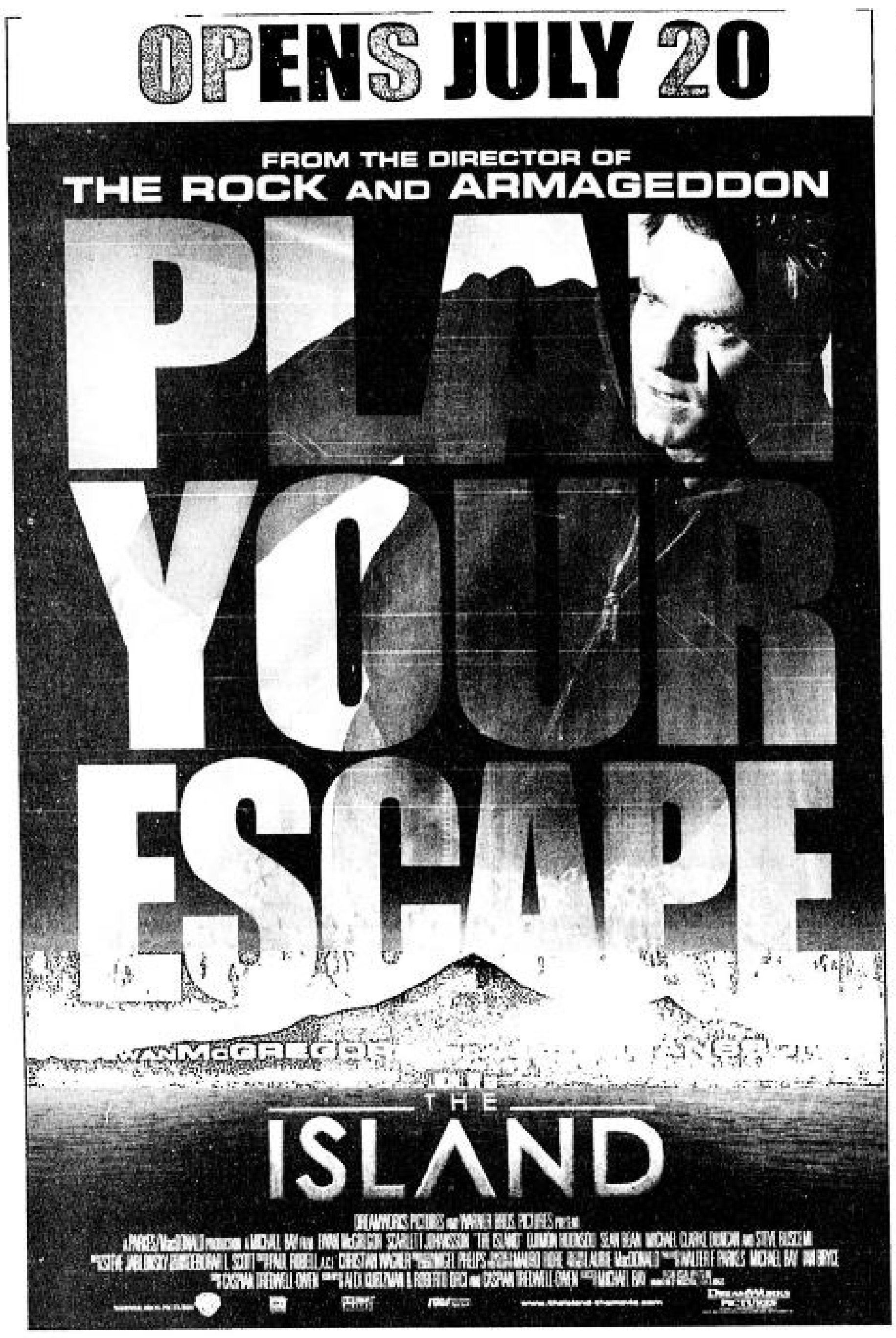
OPENS JULY 20
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE ROCK AND ARMAGEDDON
PLAN YOUR ESCAPE
McGREGOR
THE ISLAND
DREAMWORKS PICTURES AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENT

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PREPARE FOR THE FANTASTIC
4
FANTASTIC FOUR
MARVEL
NOW SHOWING!

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
THIS SEMESTER, SOME ANGRY SOULS ARE ALSO ENROLLED...PAPASOK KA BA SA HAUNTED SCHOOL?
FROM THE MAKERS OF "THE RING" COMES A NEW HORROR PHENOMENON.
Psyhic horror happens in the most unlikely place... the school. Students take note!
CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
Starring KOJI MATSUO, YUICHI MATSUO, HITOMI MIWA, ABUMI MIWA
Directed by TOSHIHARU IKEDA
MAGPAPARAMDAM SILA SA HULYO 13!

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NOTHING ON EARTH WILL PREPARE YOU!
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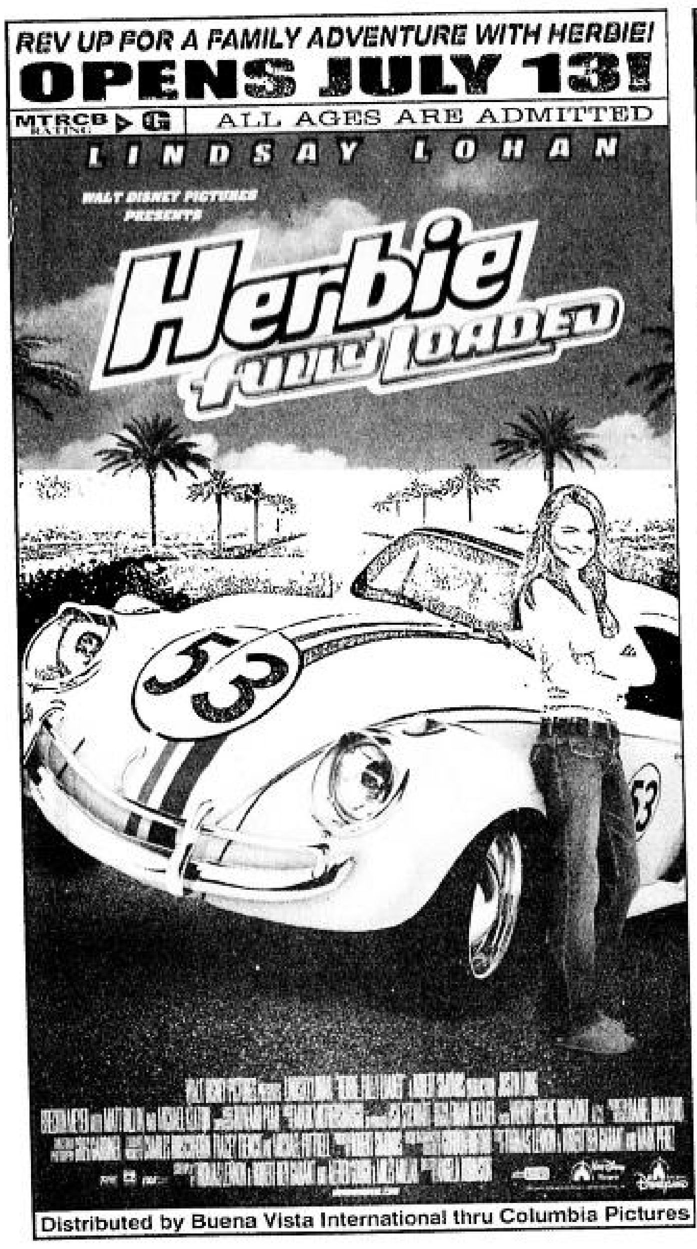
REV UP FOR A FAMILY ADVENTURE WITH HERBIE!
OPENS JULY 13!
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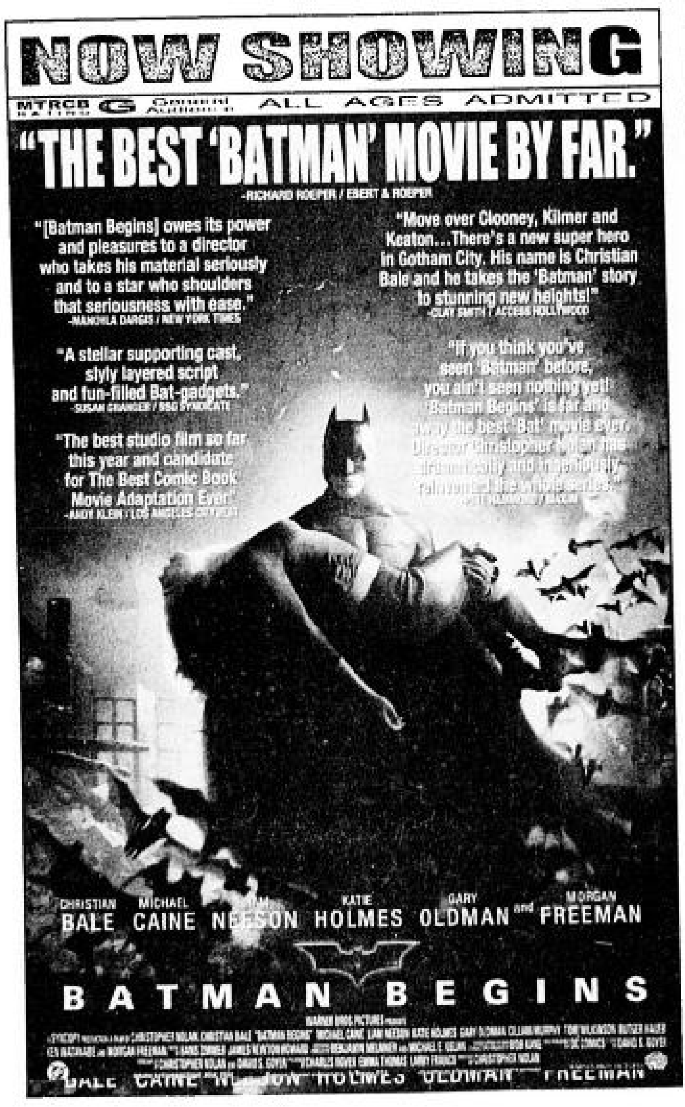
LINDSAY LOHAN
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
Herbie Fully Loaded
53
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures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"THE BEST 'BATMAN' MOVIE BY FAR."
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"[Batman Begins] owes its power and pleasures to a director who takes his material seriously and to a star who shoulders that seriousness with ease."
-MANOHLA DARGIS / NEW YORK TIMES
"A stellar supporting cast, slyly layered script and fun-filled Bat-gadgets."
-SUSAN GRANGER / SSG SYNDICATE
"The best studio film so far this year and candidate for The Best Comic Book Movie Adaptation Ever!"
-ANDY KLEIN / LOS ANGELES CITY BEAT
"Move over Clooney, Kilmer and Keaton...There's a new super hero in Gotham City. His name is Christian Bale and he takes the 'Batman' story to stunning new heights!"
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"If you think you've seen 'Batman' before, you ain't seen nothing yet! 'Batman Begins' is far and away the best 'Bat' movie ever."
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BATMAN BEGINS

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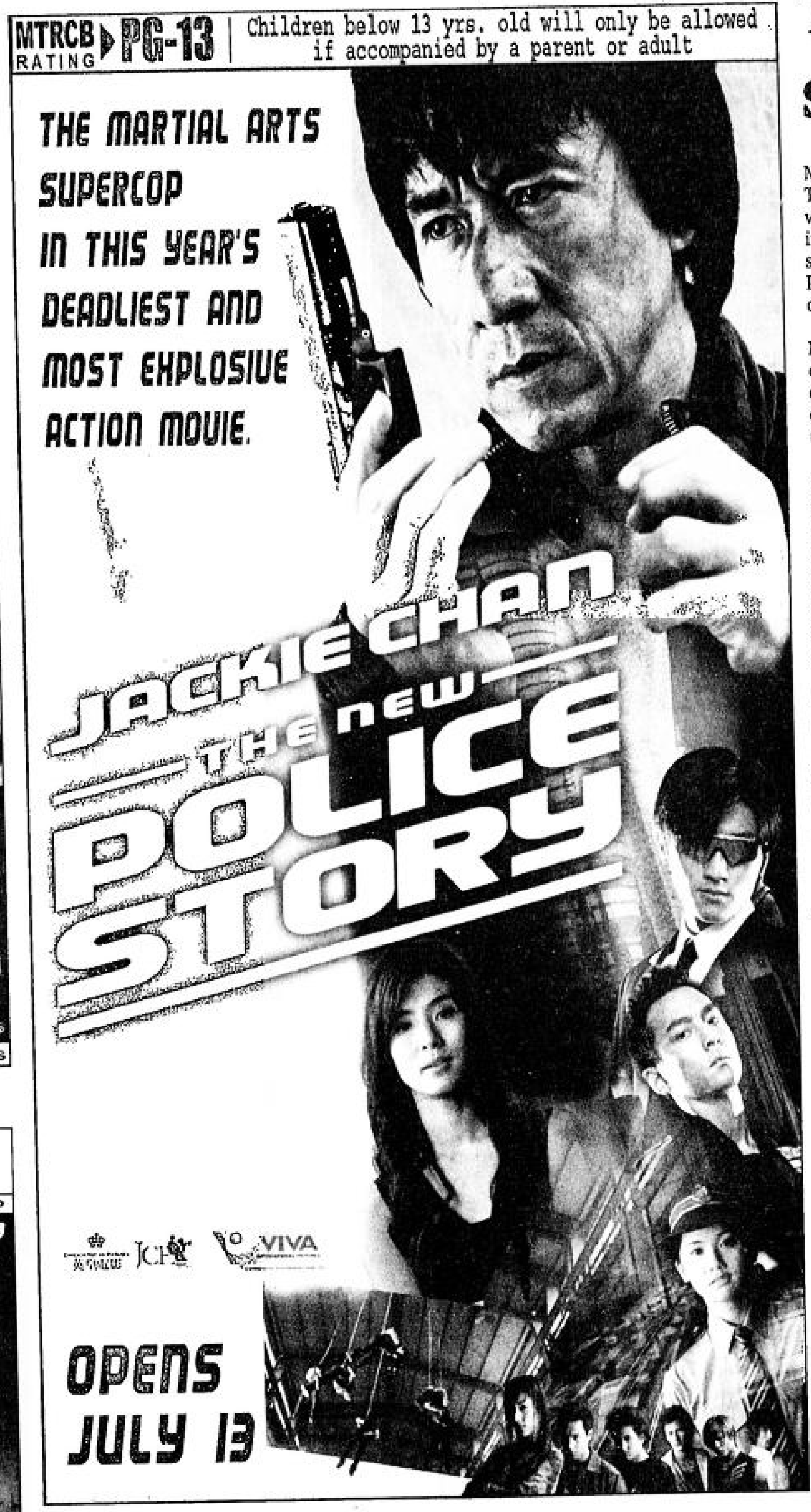
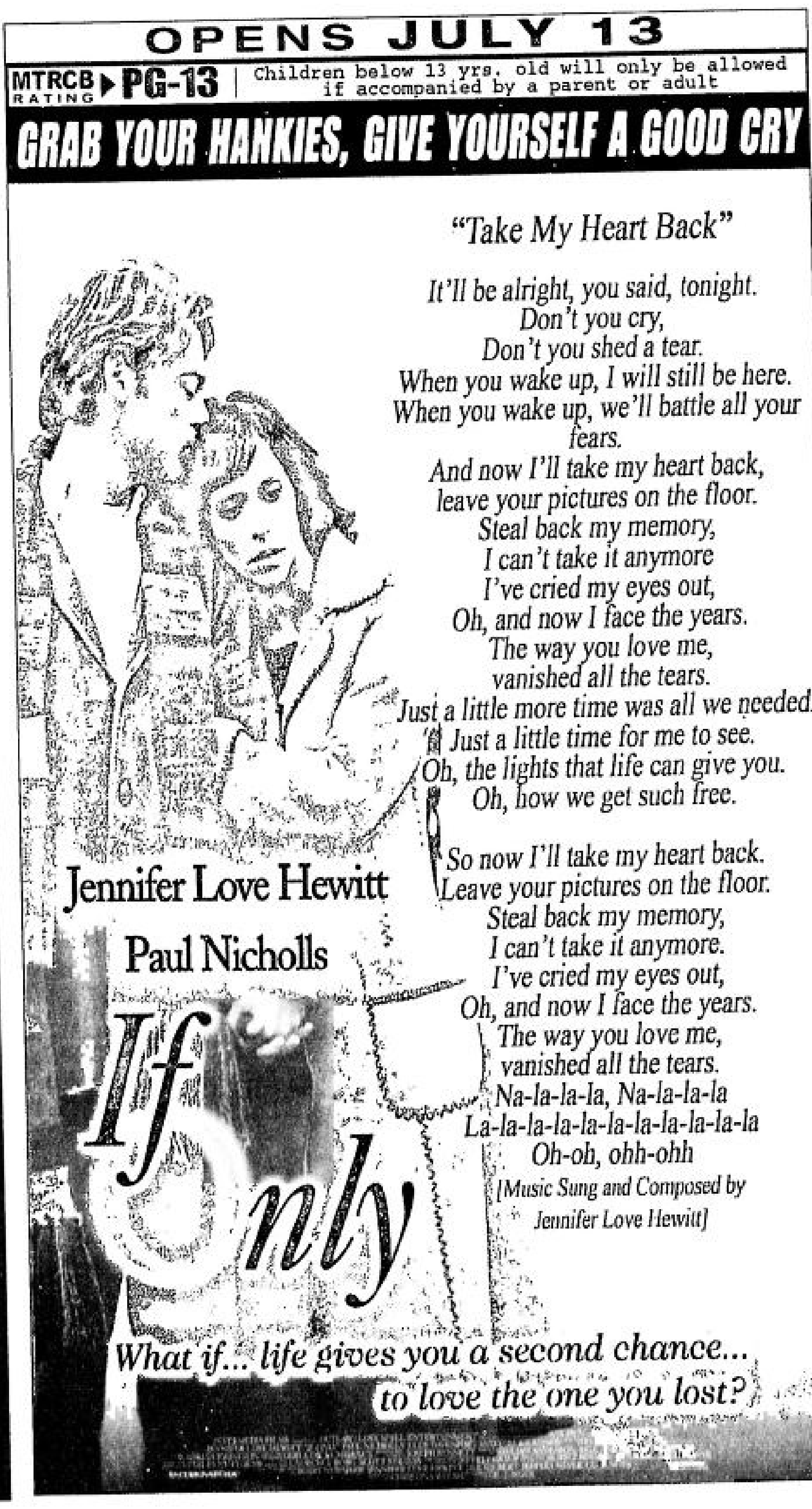
NOW SHOWING!
PERSONS WITH WEAK HEARTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO SEE THIS FILM ALONE
FRANKA POTENTE
STAR OF BOURNE IDENTITY AND BOURNE SUPREMACY
TWICE THE HORROR OF JEEPERS CREEPERS!
CREEP
YOUR JOURNEY TERMINATES HERE


MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
THE MARTIAL ARTS SUPERCOP IN THIS YEAR'S DEADLIEST AND MOST EXPLOSIVE ACTION MOVIE.
JACKIE CHAN
THE NEW POLICE STORY
VIVA
OPENS JULY 13


OPENS JULY 13
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
GRAB YOUR HANKIES, GIVE YOURSELF A GOOD CRY
"Take My Heart Back"
It'll be alright, you said, tonight.
Don't you cry,
Don't you shed a tear.
When you wake up, I will still be here.
When you wake up, we'll battle all your fears.
And now I'll take my heart back,
leave your pictures on the floor.
Steal back my memory,
I can't take it anymore
I've cried my eyes out,
Oh, and now I face the years.
The way you love me,
vanished all the tears.
Just a little more time was all we needed.
Just a little time for me to see.
Oh, the lights that life can give you.
Oh, how we get such free.
So now I'll take my heart back.
Leave your pictures on the floor.
Steal back my memory,
I can't take it anymore.
I've cried my eyes out,
Oh, and now I face the years.
The way you love me,
vanished all the tears.
Na-la-la-la, Na-la-la-la
La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la
Oh-oh, ohh-ohh
[Music Sung and Composed by Jennifer Love Hewitt]
Jennifer Love Hewitt
Paul Nicholls
If Only
What if... life gives you a second chance... to love the one you lost?

Tribu Sugbu stops Cavite

MINGLANILLA, Cebu—Defending champion Tribu Sugbu snapped Cavite's three-game winning run while keeping its home record intact Thursday by beating the Far Eastern Insurance-backed Insurers, 80-71, in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Sports Center here.

The Insurers of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar and strong supporter Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Malikisi jumped to an early 9-3 lead, but once the Skygo/Sirlitz-supported Tribu cagers wrested the lead at 22-21 at the end of the first quarter, they never looked back.

Former University of the Visayas Lancer JR Quinahan sparked Tribu to its sixth victory in eight games in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Tribu shot 51 percent from the field (33 of 61) while limiting the Insurers to 36 percent (20 of 56) shooting.

"JR (Quinahan) is the big man we need," said Tribu coach Al Solis of the bulky, 6-foot-5 PBL veteran. "But I also give credit to the rest of the boys, who helped give us our 15th straight home win."

All Power Drag Racing returns

BECAUSE of the huge turnout of participants from as far as Baguio and Bicol, action in the Eneos Lubricants All Power Drag Racing Championship Series returns Saturday for the second leg at the post Omni Aviation Drag Strip inside Clarkfield, Pampanga.

"We have decided to make this event a regular one due to persistent demand from drag racing enthusiasts from Metro Manila, North and South of Luzon," said Bobby Tanyag, president of Eneos exclusive distributor Delta Japan Oil Products.

Eneos vice president Ferdie Tarroza said giveaways and other perks like a gallon of fully synthetic motor oil will be provided.

The Opening leg winners were Michael dela Cruz (pro class), Bong Rambuyon (Hotstreet) and Ariel Batungbacal (Superstock) while runners-up were Allen Dizon, Morris Miranda and Danes Sarmiento.

Organized by Impact PR Systems, the event is supported by Fontana Leisure Park, Philippine International Hospital (PIH-Angeles), Pinoydragracing.com, Matonetics and Clark Development Corp. For details, call 8122019 and 0916-6471921.

PKF karatekas shine in Macau

KARATEKAS from the Philippine Karatedo Federation coached by former SEA Games gold medalist and national coach Juan Carlos "Chino" Veguillas finished creditably at the recent 7th Asian Karatedo Federation Championships in Macau.

Fresh from their win in the 18th Philippine Karatedo Federation National Championships, five national champions were fielded in the AKF tournament with the following results: Rhodee Saavedra, silver medal, 16-17 years old Cadet Girls Kata event; Melanie Perez, bronze in the 18-20 years old -48 Junior Girls Kumite event; Stephanie Carol Lim, bronze in the -55-kg Senior Kumite event. Gerard Rodrigo Anonas lost in the -60 men's kumite.

Despite sending only five bets, the Philippines finished tied for third with Indonesia. Saavedra is from ASK Cebu while Perez is from ASK Tacloban. Lim and Norman Montalvo are from AAK Megamall. The team was accompanied by delegation head Richard Anthony Lim and team manager Gerry Anonas.

Friendship Cup title goes to Star cagers

AN 11-POINT cluster in the last three minutes powered Philippine Star past Wilcon Builders, 71-65, and the 4th Burlington Friendship Cup title at the Philippine Buddhacare Academy gym in Quezon City recently. Gio Coquilla, Ver Roque, Gerald Ortega and Randel Reducto combined in that stretch to turn a 60-65 deficit into a rousing victory. Coquilla was named tournament MVP while Reducto made it to the Mythical Five in the annual event organized by Total Events and Athlete Management (TEAM) Inc. with Boy Ong as commissioner and Teddy S. Perefia as project director.

Other awardees were Reneboy Banzali of GNC, Jojo Pascua of Wilcon and John Rey Cortel of Shocks XT, Mythical Selection. Jason Lee of Memory Magic was given the Sportsmanship medal.

GNC, behind the guns of JV Borromeo in the closing minutes, took third-place honors by beating Memory Magic, 92-82, in the tournament backed by Memory Magic, Jimac and Accel.

Earlier, The Star also won the cheering tilt.

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2 FANTASTIC FOUR 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00	**7 BATMAN BEGINS** 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
3 SHANGHAI LILY 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00	**8 MONSTER-IN-LAW** 12:45 3:10 5:35 8:00 10:00
4 CREEP 1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:45	**9 MR. AND MRS. SMITH** 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	**10 WAR OF THE WORLDS** 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 FANTASTIC FOUR	12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
2 CREEP 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	**5 FANTASTIC FOUR** 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	**6 BATMAN BEGINS** 12:00 3:15 6:30 9:45
4 FANTASTIC FOUR 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20	**7 WAR OF THE WORLDS** 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

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1 MONSTER-IN-LAW 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30	**5 BATMAN BEGINS** 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
2 FANTASTIC FOUR 12:15 2:50 5:25 8:00	**6 FANTASTIC FOUR** 4:50 7:25
3 MR. AND MRS. SMITH 1:30 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00	**7 FANTASTIC FOUR** 2:15 4:50
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00	**8 CREEP** 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

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3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 CREEP

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July 28,2005

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 WAR OF THE WORLDS	2 FANTASTIC 4	3 THX FANTASTIC 4 1 00, 3 30, 6 00, 8 30, 11 00 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	4 BATMAN BEGINS	5 MONSTER-IN-LAW	6 FANTASTIC 4	7 FANTASTIC 4	
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 WAR OF THE WORLDS 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	2 FANTASTIC 4 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10			
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX FANTASTIC 4 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX FANTASTIC 4 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS			
	3 FANTASTIC 4 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FANTASTIC 4 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 WAR OF THE WORLDS GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX FANTASTIC 4	2 WAR OF THE WORLDS			
	3 FANTASTIC 4	4 FANTASTIC 4	5 MONSTER-IN-LAW		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 FANTASTIC 4	2 WAR OF THE WORLDS	3 FANTASTIC 4	4 BATMAN BEGINS	

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a) Every one time purchase of four (4) FANTASTIC FOUR movie ticket on any Ayala Cinema (Glorietta 4, Glorietta 1, Greenbelt 3, Greenbelt 1, Alabang Town Center, and Market Market) entitles four (4) moviegoers a chance to win instant prizes from the Pick-a-Prize bowl

b) Prizes include 300 Burger King Whopper Meal Coupons, Timezone discount Coupons, Fantastic Four Merchandise nd various Jack & Jill Products.

c) Prizes can be claimed at the designated Ayala Cinema ticket booth or Information Counter.

d) Prizes not claimed within 60 days shall be forfeited in favor of Ayala Cinemas with prior approval of DTI

e) All employees of Ayala Cinemas and its subsidiaries including their relatives up to the second degree in consanguinity affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

f) All prizes are not convertible to cash but are transferable

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Items can be redeemed from where purchase was made.

Per DTI-NCR permit # 3953, Series of 2005

Customer Service text hotline:	0917 6095900
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② Fantastic 4
③ Fantastic 4
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⑦ Fantastic 4

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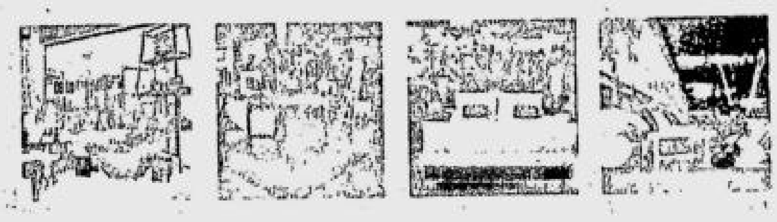

The Home Finds of Angel Jacob, Christine Bersola-Babao, Ces Drilon and Rico Blanco

With the special participation of Ana Rocha-Castillo

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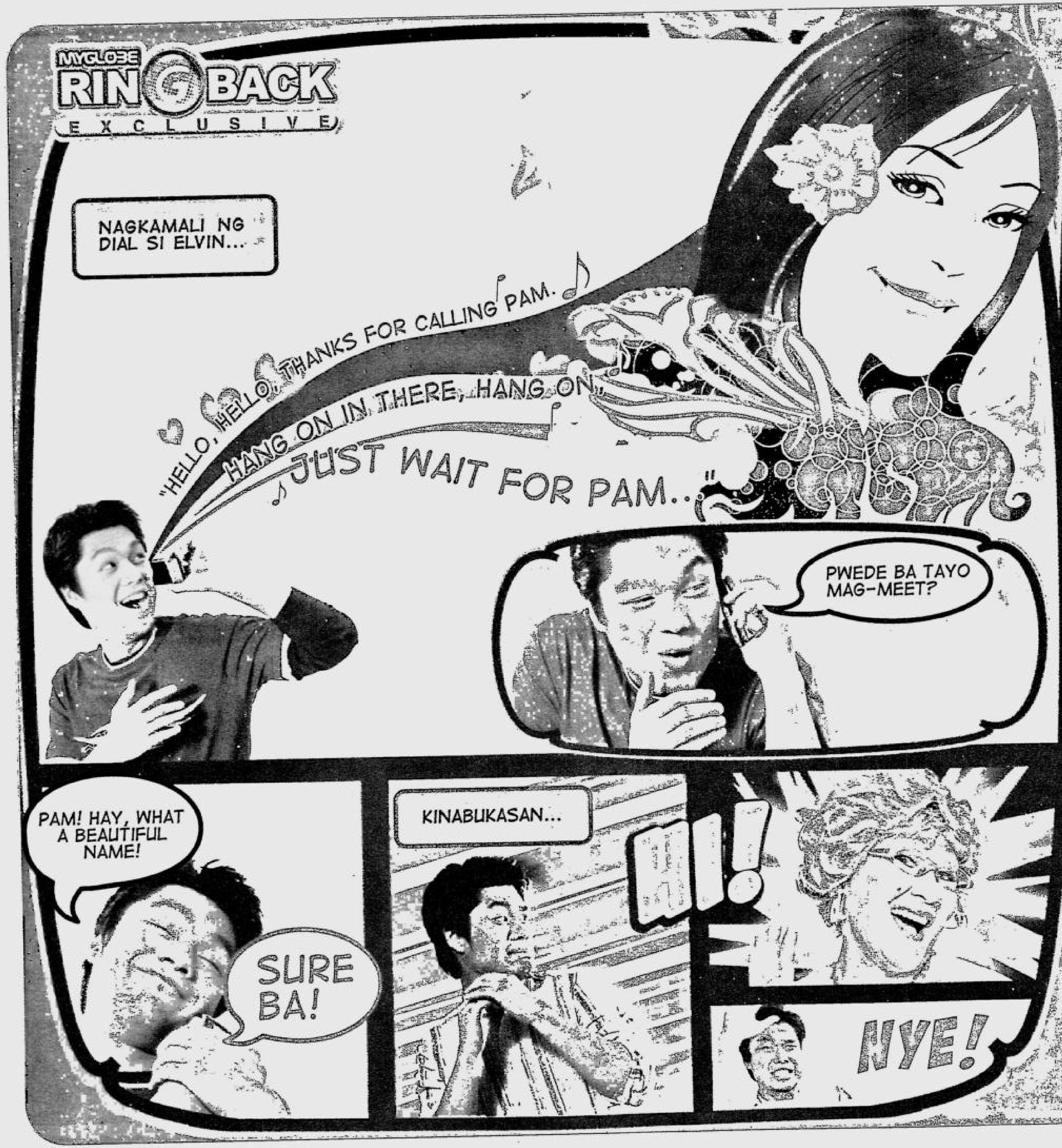
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Christine
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Gene
Gerry
Girlie
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Jay
Jenny
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Jimmy
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SATURDAY Special

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Evans, Chiklis are standouts in new 'Fantastic Four' flick

By Noelani Torre

THE comic book genre appears to be Hollywood's favorite source for material these days, as evinced by the host of superhero films that have recently passed through our screens. Tim Story's "Fantastic Four," is based on the series by Jack Kirby and Alan Lee.

Series

The Fantastic Four has long been one of Marvel's most-loved series, and this isn't the first time that it's been translated to the screen. (There was a "Fantastic Four" movie made about 10 years ago, but that earlier film adaptation turned out to be a dud.)

EVANS/ A2-3

ALBA, GRUFFUDD, EVANS AND CHIKLIS. The superheroes they play don't hide behind secret identities.

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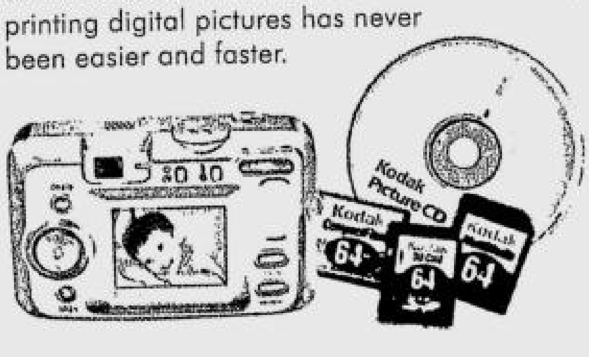

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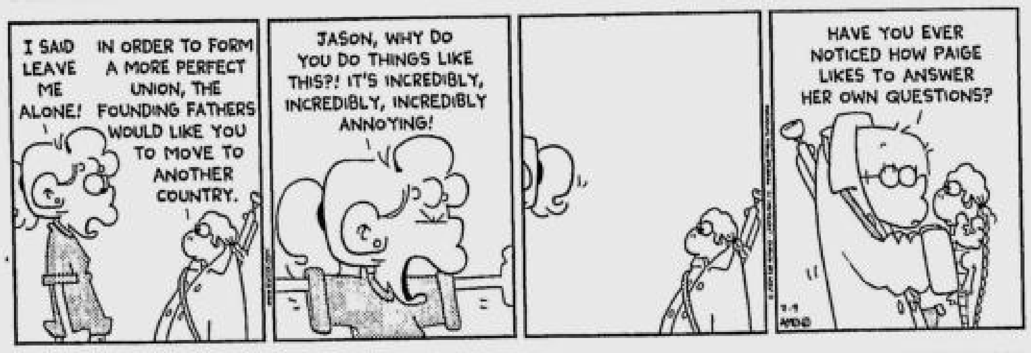
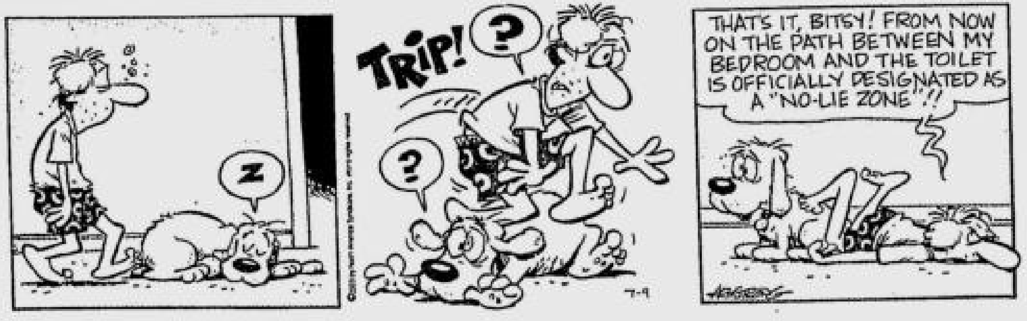
BY BILL AMEND


I SAID LEAVE ME ALONE!
IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION, THE FOUNDING FATHERS WOULD LIKE YOU TO MOVE TO ANOTHER COUNTRY.
JASON, WHY DO YOU DO THINGS LIKE THIS?! IT'S INCREDIBLY, INCREDIBLY, INCREDIBLY ANNOYING!
HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW PAIGE LIKES TO ANSWER HER OWN QUESTIONS?
7-9
AMEND

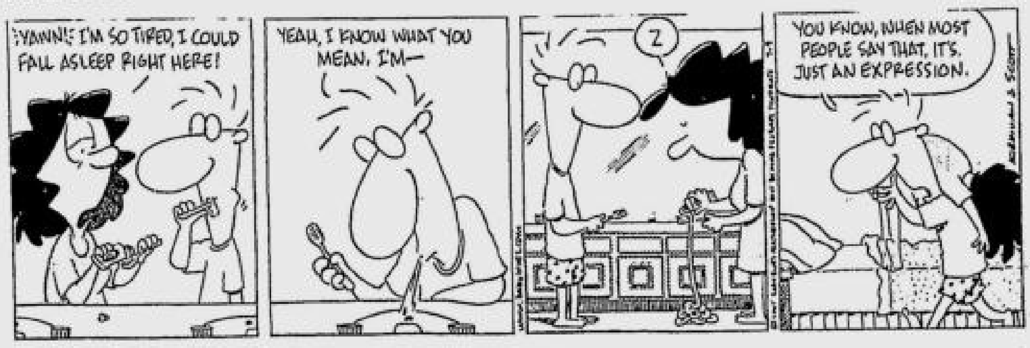
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


Z
TRIP!
?
?
7-9
THAT'S IT, BITSY! FROM NOW ON THE PATH BETWEEN MY BEDROOM AND THE TOILET IS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS A "NO-LIE ZONE"!!

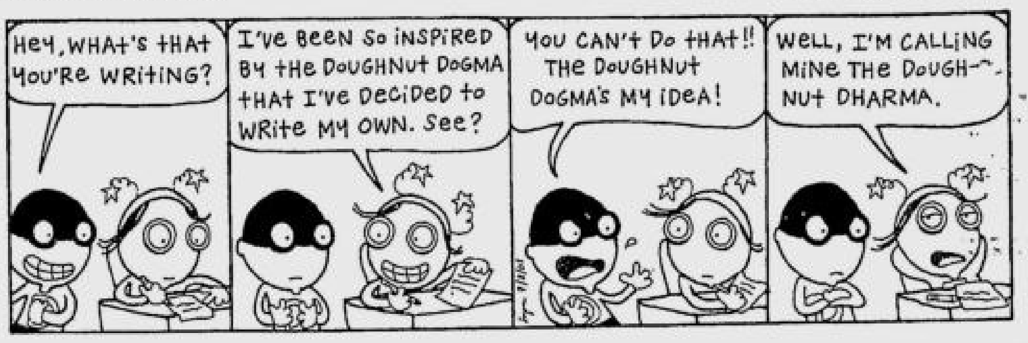
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YAWN! I'M SO TIRED, I COULD FALL ASLEEP RIGHT HERE!
YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. I'M—
Z
YOU KNOW, WHEN MOST PEOPLE SAY THAT, IT'S JUST AN EXPRESSION.

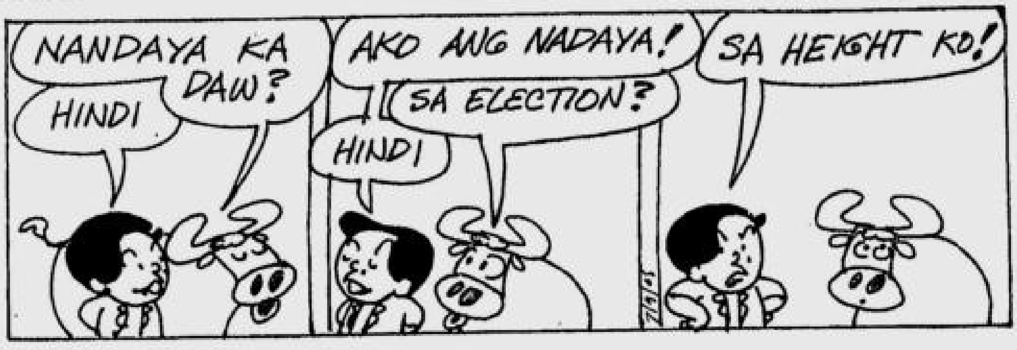
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, WHAT'S tHAT you're WRItING?
I've BEEN SO INSPIRED BY tHE DOUGHNUT DOGMA tHAT I'VE DECIDED to WRIte MY OWN. See?
YOU CAN'T DO tHAt!! THE DOUGHNUT DOGMA'S MY IDEA!
WELL, I'M CALLING MINE THE DOUGH-NUT DHARMA.

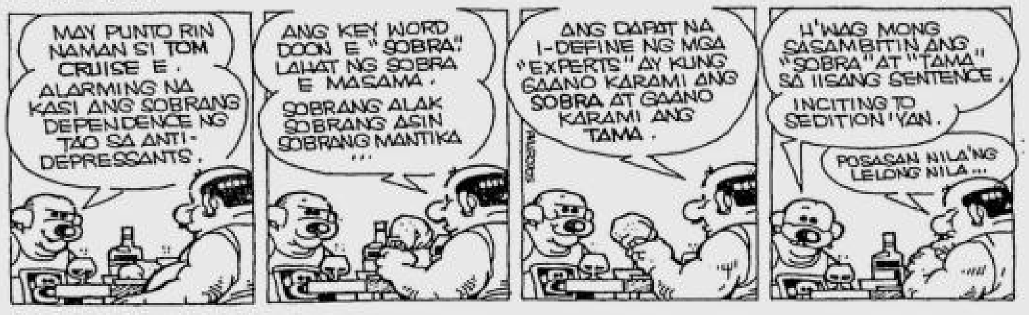
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NANDAYA KA DAW?
HINDI
AKO ANG NADAYA!
SA ELECTION?
HINDI
SA HEIGHT KO!

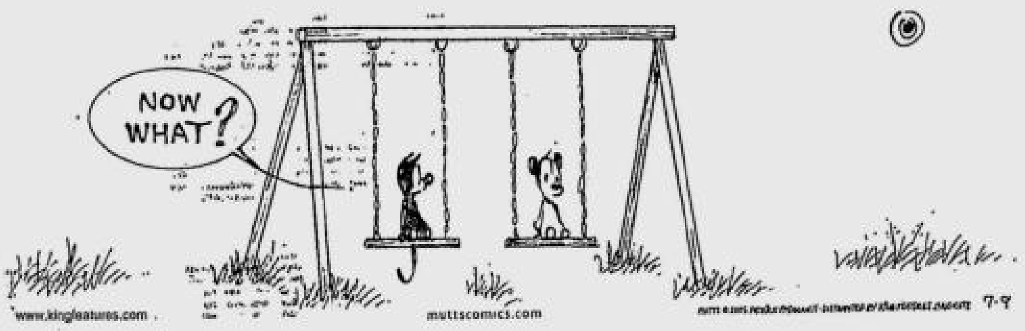
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAY PUNTO RIN NAMAN SI TOM CRUISE E. ALARMING NA KASI ANG SOBRANG DEPENDENCE NG TAO SA ANTI-DEPRESSANTS.
ANG KEY WORD DOON E "SOBRA." LAHAT NG SOBRA E MASAMA. SOBRANG ALAK SOBRANG ASIN SOBRANG MANTIKA ...
ANG DAPAT NA I-DEFINE NG MGA "EXPERTS" AY KUNG GAANO KARAMI ANG SOBRA AT GAANO KARAMI ANG TAMA.
H'WAG MONG SASAMBITIN ANG "SOBRA" AT "TAMA" SA IISANG SENTENCE. INCITING TO SEDITION 'YAN.
POSASAN NILA'NG LELONG NILA...

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


NOW WHAT?
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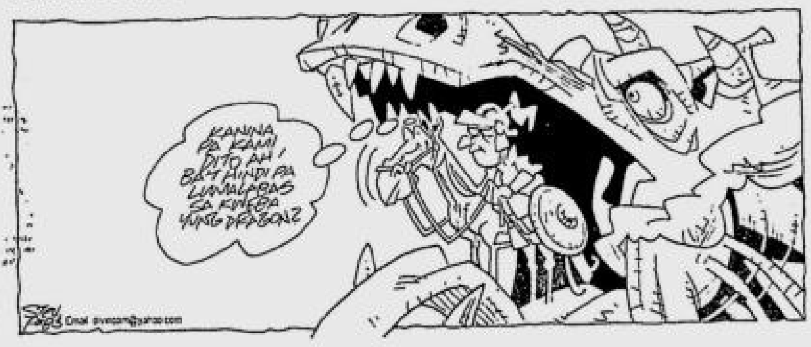
DIVINE COMEDY

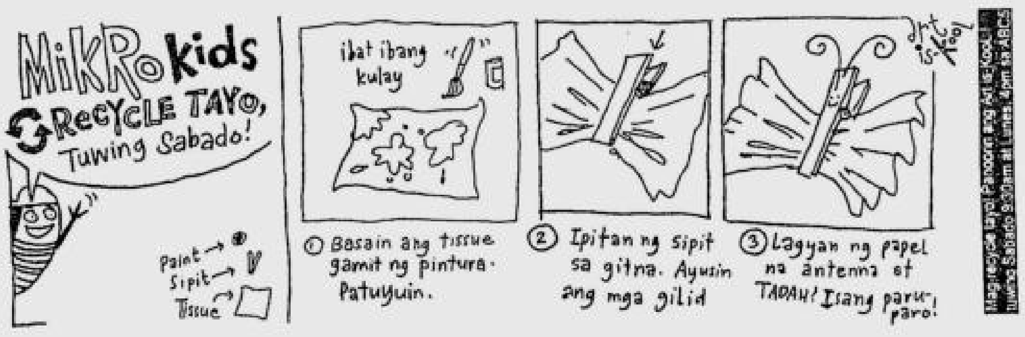
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


KANINA PA KAMI DITO AH! BAKIT HINDI PA LUMALABAS SA KWEBA YUNG DRAGON?
Email divcom@yahoo.com

ANG HULING ARAW SA BUHAY NI SAINT GEORGE

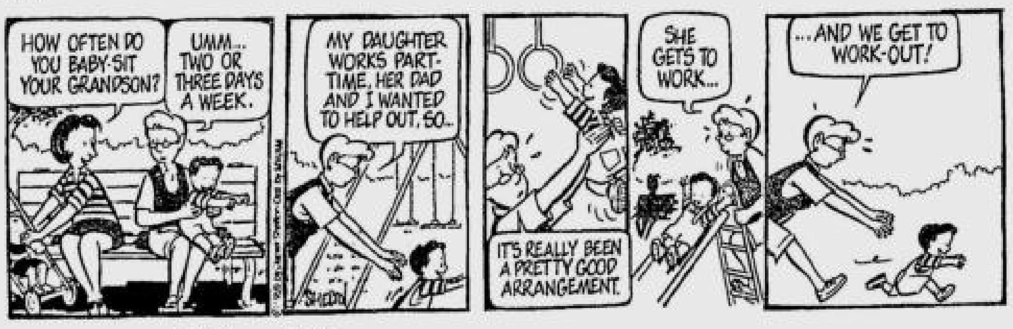
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRoKids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
Paint
Sipit
Tissue
ibat ibang kulay
① Basain ang tissue gamit ng pintura. Patuyuin.
② Ipitan ng sipit sa gitna. Ayusin ang mga gilid
③ Lagyan ng papel na antenna at TADAH! Isang paru-paro!
Art is Kool

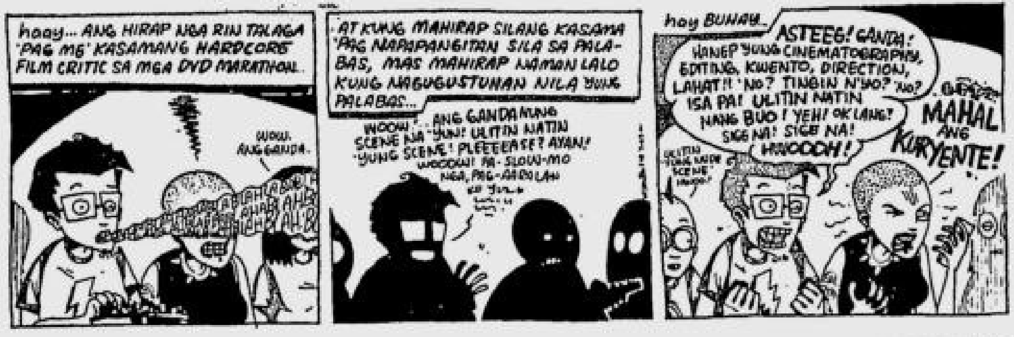
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW OFTEN DO YOU BABY-SIT YOUR GRANDSON?
UMM... TWO OR THREE DAYS A WEEK.
MY DAUGHTER WORKS PART-TIME. HER DAD AND I WANTED TO HELP OUT, SO...
IT'S REALLY BEEN A PRETTY GOOD ARRANGEMENT.
SHE GETS TO WORK...
...AND WE GET TO WORK-OUT!

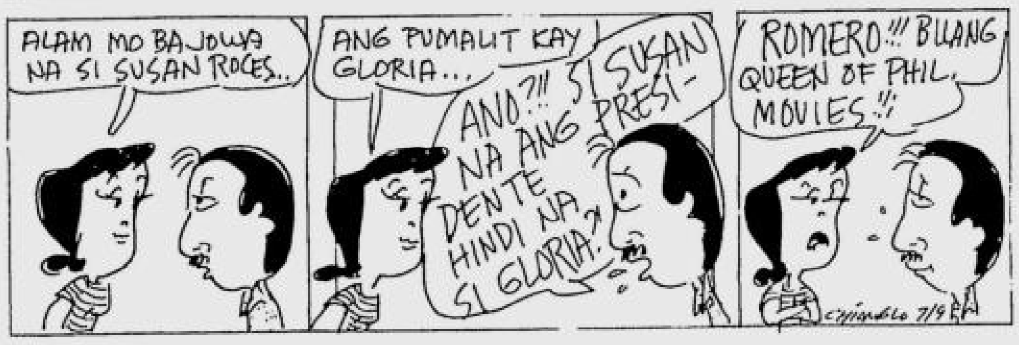
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


haay... ANG HIRAP NGA RIN TALAGA 'PAG MAY KASAMANG HARDCORE FILM CRITIC SA MGA DVD MARATHON.
WOW. ANG GANDA.
AT KUNG MAHIRAP SILANG KASAMA 'PAG NAPAPANGITAN SILA SA PALABAS, MAS MAHIRAP NAMAN LALO KUNG NAGUGUSTUHAN NILA 'YUNG PALABAS...
WOOW! ANG GANDA NUNG SCENE NA 'YUN! ULITIN NATIN 'YUNG SCENE! PLEEEEASE? AYAN! WOOOW! PA-SLOW-MO NGA, PAG-AARALAN KO 'YUNG...
hoy BUHAY...
ASTEEG! GANDA! HANEP 'YUNG CINEMATOGRAPHY, EDITING, KWENTO, DIRECTION, LAHAT!! 'NO? TINGIN N'YO? 'NO? ISA PA! ULITIN NATIN NANG BUO! YEH! OK LANG? SIGE NA! SIGE NA! HWOOOH!
MAHAL ANG KURYENTE!

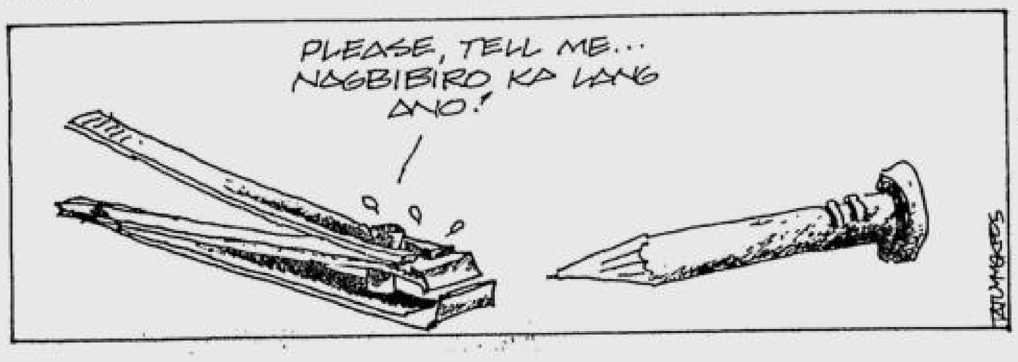
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO BA JOWA NA SI SUSAN ROCES...
ANG PUMALIT KAY GLORIA...
ANO?!! SI SUSAN NA ANG PRESI-DENTE HINDI NA SI GLORIA?
ROMERO!!! BILANG QUEEN OF PHIL. MOVIES!!
Chionglo 7/9

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PLEASE, TELL ME... NAGBIBIRO KA LANG ANO!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're quite daring and fearless about whatever you choose to do. You're also original, imaginative and inventive! Plus you're well-disciplined when you choose to be. People value your friendship, and your family adores you. You're very resilient. Major changes are possible for you this year. (Perhaps as significant as those that took place in 1996.)Birthdate of: Tom Hanks, actor; Dean Koontz, author; Fred Savage, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your interest in art, music, the entertainment world, movies, vacations and playful times with children is strong today. You want to have fun, and you want to play!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is the perfect day to redecorate or decide how to renovate where you live. You have great practical ideas that will make things look better.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's easy to communicate feelings of affection to others today. It's also important to do so. Tell people that you care.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You can't resist buying beautiful things today. You might buy them for yourself or for loved ones or even for your home. You keep seeing things you can't resist!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Many things dazzle you today. Even your thoughts amaze you. You understand qualities and relationships that you didn't see before.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might see a certain pattern running in your life (or in the life of someone else) that you had not perceived before. This is a new piece of information. It tells you a lot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Conversations with friends and groups are warm and friendly. It's easy to get the cooperation of others today. Your friendly attitude encourages trust and affection from others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): People respect what you have to say today. They think you're poetic and eloquent. You might not be aware of this. Nevertheless, others admire you now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have a heightened appreciation of beauty, art, music, poetry, literature and the crafts and work from other cultures. This is a good day to invest in these items.

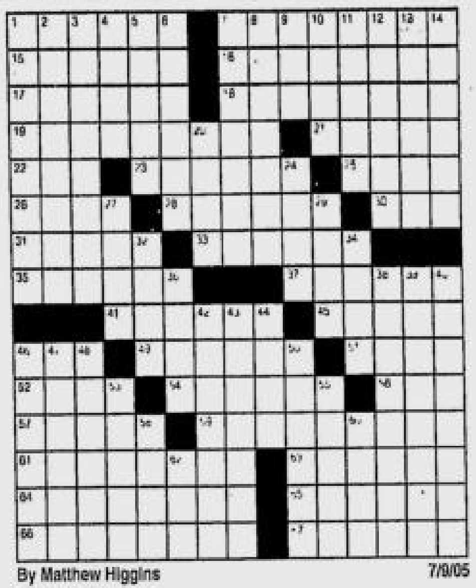
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your passionate nature is strong today. You're not wishy-washy about anything. Quite the opposite; you feel intense and very loving toward someone special in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might be able to discuss various aspects of your relationship with someone close to you today. You sense that you'll be able to understand each other. (And you're right!)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): For some time now, you've been toying with ideas (and putting them in to practice) of making where you live look more beautiful. Today you could score the jackpot! You might buy something or think about something that is sensational.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Robertson and Hammerstein
7 Covered with sequins
15 Bluish purple
16 Ohio college
17 Nobelist Fermi
18 Most annoying
19 Antique menders
21 Provide with a quality
22 King topper
23 Catnip
25 Gull relative
26 Trail grooves
28 Traffic in sacred things
30 Soak flax
31 Half of half-and-half
33 Midpoint
35 Covers one's bets
37 Jacket part
41 Assert without proof
45 Eucharist plate
46 Kimono fastener
49 Deceiving
51 "Two Years before the Mast" author
52 Part of FDIC
54 Shape anew
56 Precious stone
57 Diet promoter Jenny
59 In another place
61 Be the basis of
63 Of a sensory network
64 Most wary
65 Strike from text
66 Tipplers
67 Humbled



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

7/9/05

DOWN
1 Vault
2 No-show job
3 Fitted with a shaping undergarment
4 Came to roost
5 Brief look-see
6 Mall tenants
7 Paramount
8 Robert of "The Music Man"
9 Blockhead
10 Use a microwave?
11 Sparkle
12 German folk songs
13 Make certain
14 Locking lever
20 Tale on a grand scale
24 Hardworking insects
27 Heroic tale
29 Kennel call
32 Card combination
34 Audition for a part
36 Disparaging remark
38 Knickknack shelves
39 Revere
40 Like cloisonne
42 Certain swordsman
43 Small boring tools
44 Son of Seth
46 World of the supernatural
47 Brunei's island
48 Sultan's decrees
50 Jackson of "Women in Love"
53 Boardwalk extensions
55 Socially inept one
58 Small suitcase
60 Waikiki dance
62 "Anna Karenina" writer Tolstoy

Friday's Puzzle Solved

C	R	A	F	T	■	G	A	B	■	P	E	A	R	L
H	O	M	E	R	■	O	L	L	■	A	G	R	E	E
A	G	O	R	A	■	O	U	T	S	P	O	K	E	N
R	U	N	N	I	N	G	M	A	T	E	■	S	K	I
M	E	G	■	T	O	O	■	■	A	R	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	O	L	L	I	N	G	S	T	O	N	E
G	A	P	E	R	■	■	D	U	E	■	C	R	E	W
A	B	I	T	■	M	E	A	N	S	■	H	E	R	E
F	E	T	A	■	A	S	H	■	■	P	E	S	O	S
F	L	Y	I	N	G	C	O	L	O	R	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	O	P	■	■	I	R	E	■	A	D	S
P	A	C	■	R	I	D	I	N	G	H	A	B	I	T
S	Q	U	A	R	E	O	N	E	■	E	V	A	D	E
S	U	S	H	I	■	G	N	U	■	A	E	S	O	P
T	A	P	A	S	■	L	S	P	■	I	R	E	K	S

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7/8/05

SAN GABRIEL, DIOMAMPO AND CASTILLO. Good for the soul.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

Medical mission to remember

A CELLULAR phone is the last thing you'll find in an operating room. But, at the Ramon Tumbocon Memorial Hospital in Aklan, the ubiquitous gadget is used as a surgeon's forceps.

Recently, while surgeries were being performed simultaneously in three operating rooms, the lights went out. While surgeons in two rooms continued their task using natural light, the third room, which had surgeons working on the extraction of a grapefruit-sized lymphoma (benign tumor of the fatty tissue), had no window to draw the light from. The doctors at work were Ignacio San Gabriel Jr. and Vicente Castillo.

Pitch black

"It was pitch-black," recalled Dr. Castillo. "The only source was the faint light that seeped through the tiny space between the floor and the door. Then, my cellular phone, which has a built-in flashlight, came in handy!"

Dr. Castillo and his team were among volunteers from the Asian Hospital and Medical Center (AHMC) who took part in a two-day medical mission last May. It was organized by the Guiding Light Ministries of Aklan and the 403rd Transport Battalion.

Dr. Orlando Diomampo recalled: "Three hundred children lined up for circumcision—even the dentists pitched in to help perform the procedure!"

Dr. San Gabriel, chairman of the surgery department of AHMC, said they started performing surgical operations at 10 a.m., and finished the last one at 3 a.m. the next day.

Volunteer

Dr. Miguel Mendoza, another volunteer, recalled: "Helping people who couldn't afford the high cost of medical service was good for the soul."

Dr. Rebecca Singson's memorable operation involved removing a myoma (benign tumor of the uterine muscle). She recounted: "The patient looked like she was five months pregnant! She was so poor she didn't mind the *bukol* (mass) for years—then, she heard about the free surgery that the mission offered."

Evans, Chiklis are standouts . . .

From page A2-1

You won't be disappointed with the special effects in this movie—everything here is as seamlessly and impressively done as any discerning CGI and green screen-nursed viewer would expect.

However, what makes this particular superhero caper different is not its effects, but its heroes. The Fantastic Four—Mr. Fantastic (Ioan Gruffudd), The Invisible Woman (Jessica Alba), The Human Torch (Chris Evans), and The Thing (Michael Chiklis)—are superheroes who've come out of the closet.

They don't wear masks, have secret identities, or lead double lives—and this paves the way for a superhero story that deals, not with the angst of heroes who must hide their true selves, but with the less-explored situations that confront heroes who live out in the open. This particular aspect of the story isn't fully explored in the movie, however.

Special effects

The special effects are great, but creating a good action scene requires a director's sure and graceful touch more than it does the availability of the latest technology. Story ("Taxi") doesn't seem to have that touch, and we are left with action scenes that are more workmanlike than explosive.

As for the cast, the stand-outs are Chris Evans as the Human Torch and Michael Chiklis as The Thing. Chiklis is solid and convincing as the troubled, rocky Thing, and Evans, as the self-centered, happy-go-lucky Torch, steals the limelight from everybody else when he's in the scene. Alba, Gruffud, and Julian McMahon (who plays the villain, Dr. Doom) turn in passable but not-so-memorable performances.

All in all, we wouldn't call "Fantastic Four" fantastic. It's no "Spiderman" or "Batman Begins," but then again, it's no "Daredevil" or "Elektra," either.

Excesses of local media noted

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR recent piece on Hollywood stars getting together to put a stop to paparazzi's excesses elicited some reactions from local celebrities. In general, they agreed that the entertainment press intrudes excessively into their private lives—but, they were clueless about how to address the problem, and redress its worst consequences.

Private activities

They also pointed out that local media excesses are different from what obtains in Hollywood. Here, photographers don't really stalk celebrities as they go about their private activities. Instead, the show biz tabloid press relies on rumors, which it then proceeds to exaggerate to grotesque proportions.

When the rumor mills don't have much to work on, some "reporters" aren't above inventing tall tales involving celebrities engaging in the sleaziest activities imaginable.

Complicating the situation is the fact that some writers' fictive imaginings are done in connivance with the stars and starlets involved! This unholy alliance is the result of stars' need to revive the public's interest in their flagging careers, or starlets' need to get gossiped about, so that the concocted controversy will help make them popular.

Another local innovation in the gossip department is the "sex video" craze that swept the TV show biz talk show circuit recently. This new wrinkle is due to the popularity of cell phones with photo or video capability.

Very quickly, stars' private visual hi-jinks were telecast on national television, for even vulnerable kids to ogle at.

Revealing footage

Sure, the TV shows "masked" the most revealing footage, but the masking sometimes even added to the videos' erotic appeal, because it added to its mystery and triggered the viewer's fetid imagination to do its worst.

Expectedly, howls of protest greeted the celebrity sex videos, eventually prompting the authorities to act, and TV channels to pull them off the small screen—hopefully, for keeps!

Craze

The craze may be over, but the fact that it was allowed to peak on TV is a sad commentary on authorities' lack of initiative, and some TV people's shocking lack of responsibility.

They shouldn't have had to wait for viewers to protest and tell them what to do. That's *their* responsibility, and the fact that they didn't act on it on their own shows how reactive rather than proactive they are—a troubling situation all around!

EXCESS/ A2-4

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Davao	Aug. 12, 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Oct. 15
Baguio	Aug. 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7	Oct. 22
Manila	Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7, 14	Oct. 27

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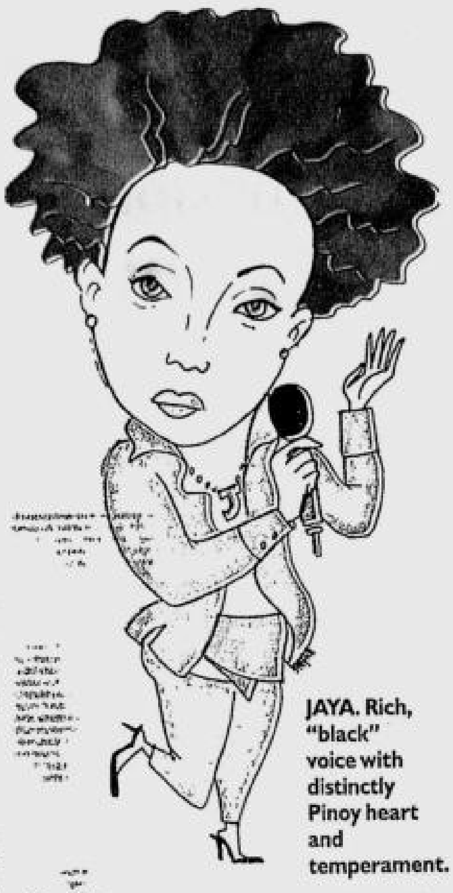
MYGLOBE exclusive

Versatility and soul in Jaya's 'Fall in Love Again'

By Rito P. Asilo


JAYA. Rich, "black" voice with distinctly Pinoy heart and temperament.

WE have always been fascinated with Jaya's unique sound: a rich, "black" voice with distinctly *Pinoy* heart and temperament—a combination that's hard to beat, and a quality that is uniquely hers! So, we were delighted when we recently saw her latest album, "Fall in Love Again," displayed on music store racks.

Jaya's soaring transitions may not be as smooth and seamless as Regine Velasquez's note-perfect vocal acrobatics, but they're nevertheless impressive for their sophistication.

New singers always prefer the Regine route—belting, that is—because their mimicking capabilities are limited to shoddy screaming that they think is synonymous to "reaching the high notes." But, when they get to the low registers of a tune, they lose steam—and we lose interest! And this is how you distinguish the versatile from the merely flashy.

Live performances

Not so with Jaya. In her touching, soul-stirring cover of "I Just Fall in Love Again," beautifully arranged by the ubiquitous Jay Durias (who's also prominently featured in Sharon, Regine and Piolo's recent solo albums), she lovingly delivers the song with heartfelt soul, and without the vocal curlicues she often displays in her live performances.

Other notable cuts include "Ba't 'Di Mo Sabihin?," her duet with Ogie Alcasid, who contributes three songs to the hefty 14-track collection; George Canseco's "Kung Ako'y Iiwan Mo" and Willy Cruz's "Sa Duyan ng Pag-ibig," both featuring Rudy Lozano's lilting guitars. In "Sa Duyan," as well as in Barbie Dumlao's "Stay True" and "The Answer Is Love," the songstress showcases her Anita Baker-like, note-slurring pipes.

Music fans who expect radio-friendly tunes similar to the hit songs ("Wala Na Bang Pag-big?," "Dahil Tanging Ikaw," "Dahil Nga Ba Sa Kanya?" and "Laging Naroon Ka") that catapulted Jaya to hitmaker status won't be disappointed, either: Hitmaker Vehnee Saturno contributes "Di Na Ba Kita Mapipigilan?" and "Pagkukunwari."

Visayan classic

Another welcome track is Jaya's soul-tinged version of Ben Zubiri's Visayan classic, "Matud Nila." (Incidentally, the same Cebuano song has also been covered by Sharon.)

Our favorite Jaya song is still her gospel-tinged, jazz- and R&B-flavored Metropop-winning entry, "Sometimes You Just Know."

It's amazing to listen to the "Soul Queen" comfortably shifting from one musical genre to another—a testament to the songstress' talent and versatility. But, for a change, we'd love to hear her soulful pipes breathe life into standards. How about it, Jaya?

Jamie Wilson and Joanne Miller play lovers in 'Big Time'

By Ronald G. Mangubat

THEATER actor Jamie Wilson has practically lost count of the number of roles he has portrayed since he first appeared onstage in Repertory Philippines' "Pippin" more than 20 years ago.

On the other hand, Joanne Miller, as a child actress, portrayed the role of Eunice on the television series, "Anna Luna."

For the first time, both actors are working together in a comedy film, "Big Time," about a kidnapping that goes askew.

Finalist

Directed by first-time filmmaker Mario Cornejo, "Big Time," one of the nine finalists in the full-length category in the first Cinemalaya Film Festival, has Wilson and Miller appearing as secret lovers. When Miller's character gets kidnapped, the rest of the characters get entangled in funny situations.

It's Wilson's first time to appear in a full-length film, and although he has been acting onstage practically all his life, he says emoting before the movie camera proved to be a fun, learning experience. Q and A:

Tell us about your roles in "Big Time."

Jamie: I play Wilson, the disgruntled son of a crime lord. I was educated in the States and came back home to join the family business—I want to be a criminal, a gangster, a drug lord. But my dad, played by Michael de Mesa, said: 'No, you're the one who can save this family. You have to do it legitimately.' So, I strike certain deals on my own—and I get into all sorts of trouble. My character's a charmer, but he has issues with his dad.

Dreamer

Joanne: I play Melody, a lady from a small town, "Crush ng Bayan," and a dreamer, who has always wanted to be an actress. Melody has a different personality when she's not with her parents.

WILSON. Seasoned theater actor appears in his first full-length film.

Any funny experiences while making this film?

Jamie: The *mahjong* and *pusoy dos* scenes. I don't play *mahjong*, but in the script, my character has to be the expert. So, *bawat* cut, somebody arranged the *mahjong* tiles for me, and I had to act like I knew what I was doing.

Threats

Jamie, you come from theater, what adjustments did you make to be able to shift to the film medium?

Jamie: It was very different because I have to "shrink" everything. I didn't know where the "point of view" of the camera was. *Sa* theater, *yung tapon mo, sa* audience *parati,* and you use your whole body.

Sa film, *minsan, hindi mo alam kung saan naka*-focus *ang* camera. And I had to learn the jargon. I didn't know what "OTS" meant until somebody whispered that it's an "over the shoulder" shot. Things like that.

Excess . . .

From page A2-3

So, what can celebrities themselves do to limit media's excessive intrusion into and exploitation of their private lives?

Privacy

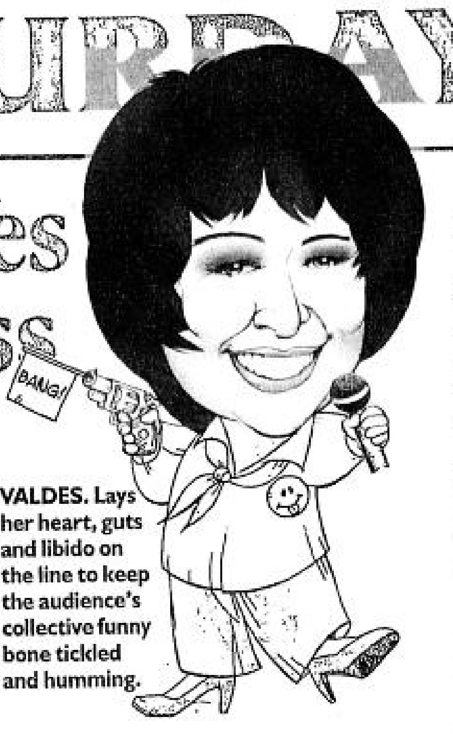
First, they have to realize that it's a problem, and that they *can* do something about it. Too many stars, some of them really big ones, think that, when they entered show biz, they lost their right to privacy.

"We're public property," is how they put it, and the statement is a sad testament to their lack of appreciation of their rights as human beings.

When stars protest about the media's intrusiveness, they are coldly put down with this old rejoinder: "If you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen!" Well, that's out of left field, too—way out! Stars have to realize that they *don't* have to surrender their privacy when they become entertainers.

SATURDAY *Special*

Mitch Valdes is a guiltless pleasure



VALDES. Lays her heart, guts and libido on the line to keep the audience's collective funny bone tickled and humming.

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Saturday, our gang celebrated Lollie Mara's birthday with comic gusto by catching Mitch Valdes' "A Rockin' Comedy" show at the Mandarin's Captain's Bar (ongoing until July 16).

Behn Cervantes and Au and Chito Cobarrubias were giggling and belly-laughing all throughout Mitch's stand-up comedy *cum* rockfest act, and a good time was had by all.

What makes "A Rockin' Comedy" different from most other shows is Mitch's go-for-broke personal investment (and divestment) in it. She digs deep into her own private life and lays her heart, guts and libido on the line to keep the audience's collective funny bone tickled and humming.

Honesty

Most other entertainers here would balk at such feisty honesty, which includes personal takes on love, betrayal, substance abuse, mammograms—etc!

Nostalgia figures strongly in Mitch's act as she entertainingly recalls the sizzling '70s, a time frame to which the majority of her audience can relate. As for viewers on the young side of 30, they can learn a lot from the insights that Mitch derives from her stroll down her distinctly psychedelic Memory Lane.

Indeed, even as the jokes and laughs fly fast and furious, insights about love and life are the show's running theme (and gag). So, the ace singer-comedienne isn't exposing her life and insides because she's an emotional exhibitionist, but because she hopes that her viewers will be able to relate to—and learn from—the moments of truth that the fickle finger of fate has taught her—with a tingling tickle!

Stepping even farther back, Mitch's act offers a similarly insightful view, not just of her and her generation's life, but of our collective existence as a nation. Expectedly, it's a tumultuous rendering, rife with frustration and rage, but also with wry and transformative wisdom.

Heart and soul

Best of all, Mitch shares telling insights into the heart and soul of womanhood. But, she makes sure that she isn't talking only to the ladies, and includes men in her psychic purview.

The inspired tack she takes is to clue her male viewers into what the women in their lives think, feel and want. That's a rare and great service, and the machos in the audience are properly, effusively grateful.

So, by the way, are the women, who deeply appreciate Mitch's ability to explain their wants and needs to their menfolk, so old misunderstandings and resentments are cleared away. That's a lot of living, loving and laughing in a two-hour show, right? Mitch Valdes *is* a guiltless pleasure! Call 891-9999 or 750-8888.

POTENTE. Runs for her life again in Christopher Smith's visually engaging thriller.

NOW SHOWING

Slasher and tearjerker

By Rito P. Asilo

"Creep"
D: Christopher Smith
S: Franka Potente

Franka Potente ("Run Lola Run") fights for her life again in Christopher Smith's visually engaging but ludicrously bloody slasher flick, about Kate (Potente), a woman who falls asleep while waiting for her train ride.

When she wakes up, she finds herself alone and trapped in a subway tunnel (London's famous underground train station) as she is pursued by a serial killer who's handy with pointed objects of all sizes and shapes, and shrieks like a banshee!

SLASHER/ A3-2

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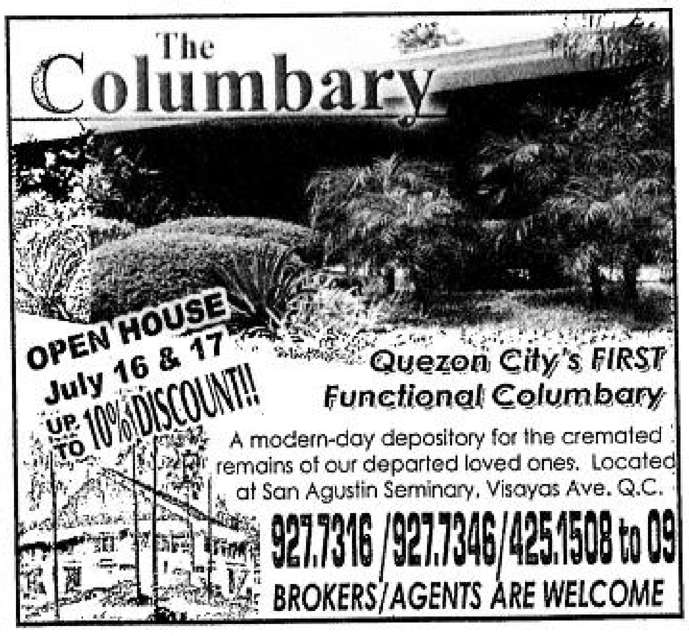
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1.3 Megapixel Camera, perfect.
The Thing
This thing has killer 96MB memory!
Invisible Woman
Anything invisible, like Bluetooth ® Wireless Technology, is a must see.
Human Torch
The MP3 player scorches!
E730
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Action and sci-fi flicks light up the screen

By Nestor U. Torre

RIDING high on the crest of the currently popular fantasy-action film wave is 20th Century Fox's blockbuster, "Fantastic Four."

In the film version of the classic Marvel comic tale, an experimental space voyage goes awry, and four people are changed by cosmic rays:

Richard Reed gains the ability to stretch his body, and takes the name Mr. Fantastic. Reed holds himself responsible for the accident, and works hard to reverse his condition.

Voice of reason

His girlfriend, scientist Sue Storm, gains the ability to become invisible and create force fields, making her the Invisible Woman. Overlooked and overshadowed in a man's world, she becomes the voice of reason in the group when they discover their potential.

Sue's younger brother, Johnny, gains the ability to control fire, including covering his own body with flames, and becomes the Human Torch.

Finally, Reed's best friend, Ben Grimm, is turned into a super-strong rock creature called The Thing. He struggles to come to grips with his new exterior, and with a world that doesn't empathize with what he's become.

Together, as the Fantastic Four, these idiosyncratic superheroes use their unique powers to foil the evil plans of their arch nemesis, Dr. Doom.

Radical change

For a radical change of filmic pace, Martin Lawrence topbills two wacky comedies: In "Rebound," he plays a high-strung college basketball coach who must redeem himself by leading a junior high school team consisting of athletically challenged youngsters.

And, in "Big Momma's House 2," he plays a police officer who once again has to assume the identity of an Atlanta matriarch, in order to go undercover in the investigation of the death of his partner.

For horror film fans out there, the movie of choice could be 'Creep.' German superstar Franka Potente returns to the screen with a modern tale of nightmarish terror that exposes the extremes of survival in the London subway.

The film shows what could happen if a night train stopped in a subway tunnel and someone was trapped inside, feeling helpless and terrorized by something macabre that lives in the darkness.

Also bent on giving viewers the creeps is Michael Bay's "The Island." The action-chiller tells the story of escapees (Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johansson) from a colony of clones 20 years in the future.

Apocalypse

The clones, who believe that they are the survivors of an apocalypse, think that their island is a dream destination. It's actually a hoax, and going to the island means that a clone's owner is harvesting its body parts. When our heroes discover this, they escape—and the chase is on!

Finally, for teen viewers, "Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants" brings to the screen Ann Brashares' best-selling novel about a very special summer in the lives of four friends.

They grow up together and develop an enduring bond despite their distinctively different personalities. But, they're about to be separated, as their lives take them in different directions for the first time. The film stars America Ferrera, Blake Lively, Alexis Bledel and Amber Tamblyn.

MCGREGOR AND JOHANNSON. Play escapees from a colony of clones in Michael Bay's "The Island."

Slasher . . .

From page A3-1

The movie is reminiscent of James Wan's gruesome "Saw," but it lacks the verve and vision of Wan's cringe-inducing thriller. If you like large colonies of rats, deformed freaks, blood-soaked scenes and logic-challenged characters, this movie's for you. Of course, London's subway is now perceived as a scene of terror after last Thursday's bombings.

"Shanghai Lily"

D: John D. Lamond
S: Leah Di Stasio, Sam Bottoms

The year is 1936 in seedy, tumultuous Shanghai. Helen (Leah Di Stassio) flies from San Francisco when she learns about the murder of her husband after a night out with a prostitute.

Hungry for the truth but penniless, she agrees to work in a brothel where, with the help of Shanghai Lily, she meets an array of colorful, gaudy characters, who help her get to the bottom of things. In the process, she uncovers unsettling truths about her fallen husband—and herself.

Shot in Singapore (and originally called "True Files"), Aussie director Lamond's

SLASHER/ A3-3

Healthy living

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

HAVING a clear philosophy on healthy food and living helps us achieve a better quality of life. Here are 10 words of wisdom:

1. Raw and green food makes the body healthy and clean.
2. Too much consumption of meat exposes the body to excessive uric acid and bad cholesterol.
3. Fruits are not only delicious and nourishing, they're also healing and detoxifying.
4. The taste for healthy food can be acquired and developed.

Treat

5. Don't let the tongue decide what it should taste. Unhealthy food can be disguised as a gustatory treat.
6. Veggies are packed with nutrients that add years to your body's existence.
7. Why spend money on unhealthy food that harms the body?
8. Don't buy food simply because of its glossy packaging. As they say, don't judge a book by its cover!
9. Choose what's natural, fresh and clean.
10. Eat wisely and intelligently, and you'll live a healthy life. Eat foolishly and whimsically, and you will suffer miserably.

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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR GP
2 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR GP
3 (DOLBY) MONSTER IN LAW PG13
4 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Universal
(Manila) tel: 7334043 or 2470
1 FANTASTIC FOUR

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel. 7266159
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 KALAPATI SA GABI
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) FANTASTIC FOUR
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 KALAPATI SA GABI
2 CREEP
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
2 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 (SDDS) FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DTS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 GOLD (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
6 GOLD (SDDS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) HOTEL RWANDA
8 MR AND MRS SMITH
9 CREEP
10 MONSTER IN LAW

Blue Wave MAR. JUNTION
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341924
1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DOLBY) CREEP

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN
5 SOON TO OPEN

MARKETMALL Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 TAGOS SA LAMAN
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 KALAPATI SA GABI

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 SHUTTER
3 (DTS EX) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 SHUTTER
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 SHUTTER
2 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
3 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
4 (DTS) MR. & MRS. SMITH

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 AMITYVILLE HORROR
2 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 SIX

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 SHUTTER
3 (DOLBY) MR. & MRS. SMITH

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 COACH CARTER
2 RING OF NIBELUNGS
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DTS) MR AND MRS SMITH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) BATMAN BEGINS
2 KALAPATI SA GABI
3 TWO TIMER
4 (DTS) CREEP

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 SIX
3 (DTS) AMITYVILL HORROR
4 TWO TIMER
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SHAOLI VS' EVIL DEAD
2 SHUTTER
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WAR OF THE WOLDS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 KALAPATI SA GABI
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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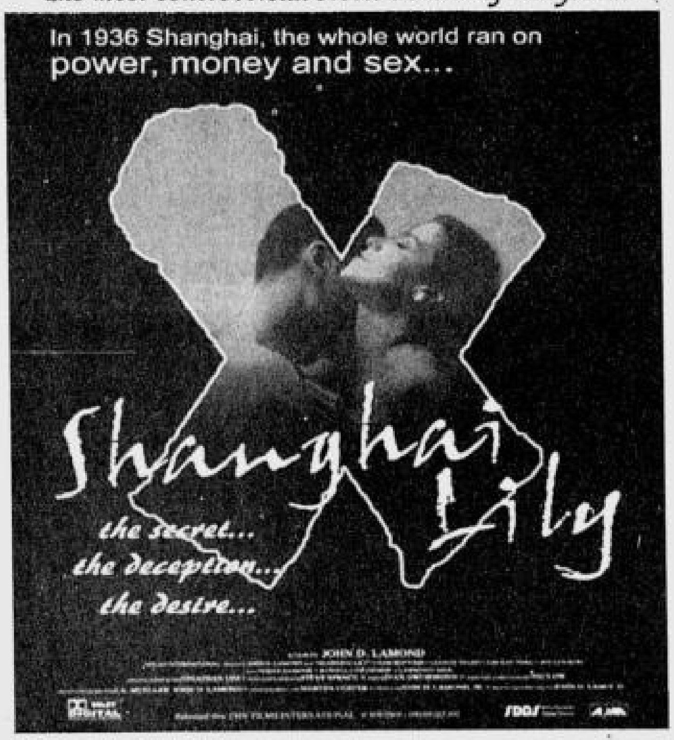
In 1936 Shanghai, the whole world ran on power, money and sex...
Shanghai Lily
the secret...
the deception...
the desire...
JOHN D. LAMOND

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FEU Tamaraws NU Bulldogs UE Warriors
UP Fighting Maroons UST Growling Tigers
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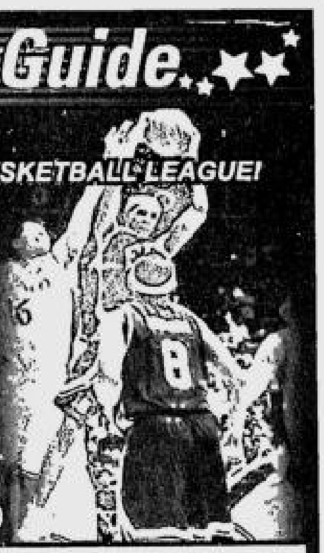
1 PM - Araneta Coliseum
2 PM - UST vs. UP (Srs) / 4 PM - FEU vs. UE (Srs)



CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway Cineplex 10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 WAR OF THE WORLDS
BATMAN BEGINS & FANTASTIC 4
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

MR & MRS SMITH
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
WAR OF THE WORLDS
1:20 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 7:50 / 9:50
MONSTER IN LAW
12:15 / 2:45 / 5:15 / 7:45 / 10:00
FANTASTIC FOUR
12:10 / 12:50 / 1:30 / 3:00
3:40 / 4:20 / 5:50 / 6:30
7:10 / 8:40 / 9:20 / 10:00
BATMAN BEGINS
1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30
CREEP
12:35 / 2:45 / 4:55 / 7:05 / 9:15

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
FANTASTIC FOUR
1:30 / 4:20 / 7:10 / 10:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
② WAR OF THE WORLDS
11:30 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
③ BATMAN BEGINS
12:20 / 3:00 / 5:40 / 8:20
④ KALAPATI SA GABI
12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20
⑤ CREEP
11:30 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES - GAMES
July 9, Sat. 1pm Opening / 2pm UP vs UST Srs/ 4pm FEU vs UE Srs
July 10 LA SALLE vs ATENEO 12nn Jrs / 4pm Srs
Adu vs NU 10 am Jrs / 2 pm Srs
July 13, Wednesday PBA FINALS - GAME 6 (if nec.)
7:30 pm San Miguel vs Talk n Text
JOHN MAXWELL ASIAN TOUR 2005
July 22 Friday 6:00 pm

CENTER EVENTS
NEW STORES: Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf at the Cineplex 10 Lobby, Pizza Hut at Level 3, Menage Salon at Level 2, Teriyaki Boy at Level 3, all at Gateway Mall
PERFORMANCES: Guarana on July 15, Acoustic Jive on July 16 & Mon David on July 17 at the Gateway Roxas Tunnel
EXHIBITS: Herbie: Fully Loaded life-size replica on display ongoing until July 13 at the Gateway Cineplex 10 Lobby
SPECIAL APPEARANCE: Neil Gaiman Book Signing on July 11, 4pm at Fully Booked on Level 2 of Gateway Mall
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Pinky Rigor, theater ingénue

By Behn Cervantes

I JOINED the UP Dramatic Club along with the likes of George Sison, Heidi de Peralta, Donnie Montelibano, Jose Ma. Sison, Lino Brocka and Pinky Rigor (now Farolan). We went through a grueling series of auditions before finally making it to the roster of the theatrical group, whose mentor was Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero.

We felt privileged to be part of this group, renowned for producing the likes of Julie Delena, Celia Diaz-Laurel, Joy Gamboa-Virata, and Marce and Kit Viduya.

Joe "Exxur" Velez, Cherry Santos, Angie Collas, Jun Roy, Jules Yogore and Tito Gupit were our immediate "seniors," along with the likes of Phil Cabanos and Sonny Osmeña, whose expertise lay in set and lighting design, respectively.

Portrayal

Cherry Santos was the resident ingénue after Joy Gamboa, who is remembered for her portrayal of Antigone. Cherry was petite, pretty, and a university scholar. She possessed a well-modulated voice and perfect diction.

Pinky was our batch's ingénue. She played my daughter in our first play, "A Happy Journey from Trenton to Camden" by Thorton Wilder. I found it amusing although dramatically challenging to play father to an actress just a year younger than I was!

George was the premiere actor of UP Rep, while Pinky was UP High's dramatic star. Her perfect diction came with a lilting, girlish soprano. Nevertheless, she could be dramatic when needed.

Three priests

Then, Freddie cast us in various supporting roles for his dramatic reading of T.S. Elliot's "A Murder in the Cathedral," about the martyrdom of St. Thomas More, portrayed by Jun Roy. I remember playing one of the three priests. Joonee Gamboa portrayed one of the knights who came to commit the dastardly crime. Both Pinky and Cherry were members of the chorus, which included Bobbie Malay Ocampo and Ishmael Bernal.

Pinky delighted the UP community with her élan in the controversial comedy, "The Moon is Blue." She played a naïve secretary.

She also played a funny *manang* role in an original musical, "Hot November."

Lecherous royal

We worked together in Bernard Shaw's "Mrs. Warren's Profession," where I portrayed a lecherous royal who preyed on Vivien's charms. We had a hoot doing this difficult play because old friends Kit, Heidi and George were in the cast.

After Pinky graduated, she continued to act with Celia's group, in the plays produced for television by the Caltex Star Caravan, under the supervision of Jaime de la Rosa.

Alas, theater was still an avocation, so Pinky worked in the travel industry. In 1969, Peta produced Arthur Miller's "The Crucible." Lino Brocka and I convinced Pinky to act once again, but she demurred. She was still in top form, but acting was no longer a priority. What a loss!

RIGOR-FAROLAN.
Comfortable both in drama and comedy.

Slasher . . .

From page A3-2

noirish film had been in the can for three years before it found a distributor—with good reason:

The film moves at a sluggish pace, and is dragged down further by a languorous narration and cliché-ridden situations. Di Stasio looks perfect for the part. Unfortunately, the art and craft of acting also require actors to *show* a wide range of emotions—grief, desperation, triumph, elation, fear, etc.—and the first-time actress is simply unable to rise up to the thespic challenge.

"Mga Kalapati sa Gabi"

D: Cesar Abella
S: Kat de Santos, Raya Montero

Sex nymphets gather once again to tell the story of five friends who ply the sex trade when darkness falls over Baguio City. By day, Inna (Kat de Santos) is a diligent high school student; Money (Raya Montero) is a single mother, with two kids sired by different fathers; Salve (Maye Tongco) "likes" reluctant seminarians; Dolores (Angela Ortiz) takes care of a hemiplegic father, and Andrea (Nika Madrid) supports her unemployed mother and abusive stepfather.

When nighttime comes, the girls assemble to share with one another their heartaches and laughter. The film features poor characterization, trite storytelling, poor production values, and a hefty serving of gratuitous nudity.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① FANTASTIC FOUR
MTRCB GP
12.10, 2.40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10 LMF

② FANTASTIC FOUR
MTRCB GP
11 10, 1 40, 4.10, 6:40, 9:10 LMF

③ MONSTER IN LAW
MTRCB PG-13
(Please call us for the time)

④ WAR OF THE WORLDS
MTRCB PG-13
12 00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE FANTASTIC FOUR
MTRCB GP 11 40 2 10 4 40 7:10 9 40 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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Shangri-La Plaza

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Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR FANTASTIC FOUR

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:20, 3:00, 5:40
8:20, 11:00
PG-13

2 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:00, 1:40, 7:00, 9:30
GP

3 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:20, 3:00, 5:40
8:20, 11:00
GP

4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
11:40, 2:20, 5:00
7:40, 10:20
PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

FANTASTIC FOUR GP 1:05,3:35,6:05,8:35	FANTASTIC 4 GP 11:55,2:25,4:55,7:25,9:55	FANTASTIC 4 GP 11:20,1:50,4:20,6:50,9:20
WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 12:20,2:50,5:20,7:50,10:20	MONSTER IN LAW PG13 1:10,3:30,5.50,8:10,10:20	FANTASTIC 4 GP 12:30,3:00,5.30,8:00,10:30

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Kalapati sa Gabi
4 Fantastic 4
5 War of the Worlds
P70 Lang Dolby Digital Pa!
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Metropolis Alabang 5 & Starmall Las Pinas 1

METROPOLIS STAR ALABANG
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Kalapati sa Gabi
2 Creep
3 Under Renovation
4 Under Renovation
5 Fantastic 4
6 War of the Worlds

starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
1 War of the Worlds
2 Rental Reservation

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CINEMA 1 WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
CINEMA 2 FANTASTIC 4 GP 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

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CINEMA 3 WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
CINEMA 4 FANTASTIC 4 GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
CINEMA 5 FANTASTIC 4 GP 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00

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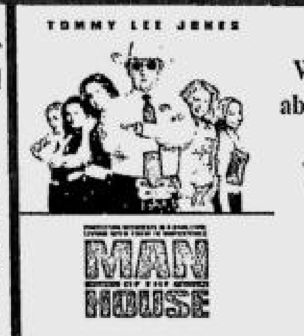
movie schedules events promos

Here are the results for the last week's poll!
"What movies are you into?"
TOP FIVE MOVIES
- Monster-in-law ★★★★★
- War of the worlds ★★★★
- Herbie Fully Loaded ★★★★
- Fantastic Four ★★★
- Happily Ever After ★★★

TOMMY LEE JONES



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the podium 633-8976
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:50FS/12:20MF/02:40/05:20/07:20 09:05LFS/09:40LMF/11:25END
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
01:00FS/01:30MF/03:45/06:00/08:15 10:00LFS/10:30LMF/12:15END

megamall 633-1901
WAR OF THE WORLDS
11:30FS/12:00MF/02:30/05:00/07:30 09:30LFS/10:00LMF/12:00END
manila
FANTASTIC FOUR
10:25FS/10:50MF/01:00/03:10/05:20/07:30 09:15LFS/09:40LMF/11:40END

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WAR OF THE WORLDS
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FANTASTIC FOUR
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5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7 CREEP
MONSTER-IN-LAW
9 WAR OF THE WORLDS
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 NASAAN KA MAN
12 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
HOTEL RWANDA
FANTASTIC FOUR
SHUTTER
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
NASAAN KA MAN
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
FANTASTIC FOUR
BATMAN BEGINS
9 MONSTER-IN-LAW
10 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
11 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12 CREEP

SM NORTH EDSA
FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS
FANTASTIC FOUR
MONSTER-IN-LAW
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
FANTASTIC FOUR
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY MANILA
WAR OF THE WORLDS
MR. & MRS. SMITH
ICE PRINCESS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
MONSTER-IN-LAW
FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS
8 BATMAN BEGINS
NASAAN KA MAN
10 CREEP
11 SHUTTER
12 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

SM CITY STA MESA
WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 BATMAN BEGINS
FANTASTIC FOUR
4 CREEP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
PREMONITION
NASAAN KA MAN
8 HOTEL RWANDA
MONSTER-IN-LAW
10 MR. & MRS. SMITH

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
8 BATMAN BEGINS
9 CREEP
10 MAN OF THE HOUSE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
RESERVED
2 RESERVED
RESERVED
4 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
CREEP
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY BICUTAN
FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
BATMAN BEGINS
FANTASTIC FOUR

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
FANTASTIC FOUR
FANTASTIC FOUR
NASAAN KA MAN
4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
5 HOTEL RWANDA
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 IN GOOD COMPANY
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BACOOR
MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
FANTASTIC FOUR
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS
NASAAN KA MAN
8 MR. & MRS. SMITH

SM CITY MARILAO
FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS
PREMONITION
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HOTEL RWANDA
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY LUCENA
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 UNLEASHED
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 SHUTTER
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 SIN CITY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 BIRTH
6 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
MR. & MRS. SMITH
8 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY ILOILO
FANTASTIC FOUR
RESERVED
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 PREMONITION
A LOT LIKE LOVE
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 RESERVED
8 BATMAN BEGINS

SM CITY DAVAO
FANTASTIC FOUR
THE JACKET
HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 COACH CARTER
WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
FANTASTIC FOUR
IN GOOD COMPANY
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS

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OPENS TODAY

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Imagine if aliens would invade over the Earth and destroy mankind.
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movieaddicts_smcinema@yahoo.com
or give it personally at your nearest SM Cinema branch. Lucky winners will get their artwork published on this space and will win special prizes from United International Pictures.
THIS CONTEST IS EXTENDED UNTIL JULY 12, 2005

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Wallpaper Calendar	CALMMS ON to 2910	Daily	2 entries	CALMMS OFF to 2910	P5.00
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Monotone	TONE ON to 2910	Once Weekly	6 entries	TONE OFF to 2910	P15.00
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Pogi Points/Diskarte Tips	POGI to 2910	Daily	10 upon activation	POGI OFF to 2910	P2.00
Style Tips	CHIC to 2910	Daily	10 upon activation	CHIC OFF to 2910	P2.00
Pinoy Slang Dictionary	PINOY to 2910	Daily	10 upon activation	PINOY OFF to 2910	P2.00
Misquotes of Common English lines	MISQ to 2910	Daily	10 upon activation	MISQ OFF to 2910	P2.00

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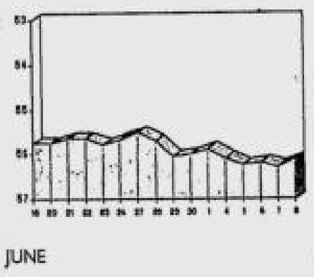
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Peso, stocks recover after shaky start

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.100 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., July 8, 2005

¥ 111.64= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., July 6, 2005

GOLD: $424.10-424.60

per ounce Hong Kong, July 8, 2005

July 8, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.837030	1.000000	56.2840
Japan	Yen	0.007470	0.008925	0.5023
United Kingdom	Pound	1.460283	1.744600	98.1931
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107688	0.128655	7.2412
Switzerland	Franc	0.644762	0.770297	43.3554
Canada	Dollar	0.681510	0.814200	45.8264
Singapore	Dollar	0.492834	0.588789	33.1394
Australia	Dollar	0.619335	0.739919	41.6456
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.220298	2.652590	149.2984
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223202	0.266660	15.0087
Brunei	Dollar	0.491388	0.587061	33.0421
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020054	0.023958	1.3485
UAE	Dirham	0.227900	0.272272	15.3246
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.194700	67.2425
Argentina	Peso	0.290888	0.347524	19.5600
Brazil	Real	0.351251	0.419639	23.6190
Denmark	Kroner	0.134161	0.160282	9.0213
India	Rupee	0.019220	0.022962	1.2924
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220283	·0.263172	14.8124
Mexico	New Peso	0.077635	0.092751	5.2204
New Zealand	Dollar	0.562823	0.672405	37.8456
Norway	Kroner	0.126583	0.151229	8.5118
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014049	0.016784	0.9447
South Africa	Rand	0.122126	0.145904	8.2121
Korea	Won	0.000796	0.000951	0.0535
Sweden	Kroner	0.106073	0.126725	7.1326
Syria	Pound	0.016125	0.019264	1.0843
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026149	0.031240	1.7583
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000390	0.000466	0.0262

WHAT'S INSIDE

Breaktime: It's all over but the shooting /B3

BSP keeps close watch on volatile forex mart /B10

June auto sales jumped 15% on EVAT fears /B10

GMA resignation seen resolving crisis

By Doris C. Dumlao and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FINANCIAL markets firmed up yesterday on fresh hopes that the resignation of highly regarded government officials led by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima may speed up the resolution of the political crisis hounding President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Everyone was concerned but as the events unfolded, I think the realization that the crisis can be resolved soon was positive for the markets," said Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines and treasurer of BDO Private Bank.

Stock traders said that prospects that Ms Arroyo could soon be forced to resign, and in the process resolving political tensions, supported financial markets after weeks of weakness.

The peso hovered just above a record low of 56.45 to a dollar in early deals before recovering in later trading as pressure increased for Ms Arroyo to step down.

The local currency closed at 56.10 to $1 at the Philippine Dealing System.

The key stock index, which has fallen 8.5 percent in three weeks, yesterday rose 1.5 percent.

Dealers said the market fell sharply at the opening after the President asked her Cabinet to resign but then recovered when several officials called on her to leave office as well in the face of allegations of vote rigging in last year's elections.

It appeared that some investors at least were looking for bargains on the view that Arroyo could now be forced from office, thereby ending the stand-off.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed 28.96

PESO/ B2

56.25
JAPAN YEN
010

AFP

A WOMAN shows 100 US dollar bills at a money changer shop in Manila. The peso has fallen to about 56.38 to the dollar in trading yesterday after President Macapagal-Arroyo called on her cabinet to resign. Eight members of the Philippine cabinet, including the key economic team, resigned yesterday and urged the President to also step down to defuse a political crisis caused by vote-rigging allegations.

It's business as usual for DOF, says Purisima

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said the fiscal reform programs initiated under the Arroyo administration would continue despite the resignation of the country's fiscal officials led by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

The DOF concluded yesterday a two-day planning workshop wherein finance officials laid out plans of action to have the temporary restraining order on the expanded value-added tax law lifted, and for the remaining fiscal reform measures to be approved by Congress.

The VAT law, which expanded the coverage of the tax and gave a standby authority for President Macapagal-Arroyo to raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent next year, was considered as the administration's key fiscal reform measure. It was estimated to generate as much as P31 billion in the second half of the year and P105 billion annually starting next year.

The Supreme Court, however, issued a TRO on the implementation of the VAT law last Friday, its first day of effectivity, following a petition filed by opposition lawmakers.

Purisima, who resigned yesterday together with a number of Cabinet officials, said it should be business as usual for the DOF.

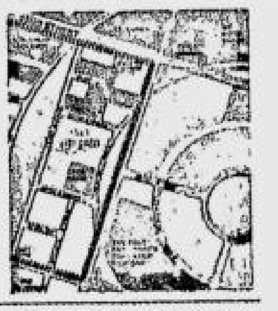
"The DOF will continue collecting revenues," Purisima said in an interview with reporters on his way to a meeting with finance undersecretaries yesterday afternoon. He said efforts to have the TRO on the VAT lifted should still be one of the agency's top agenda.

Finance officials said arguments opposing the TRO have already been prepared, although details could not be disclosed pending its presentation in court.

Finance officials added that they have already laid out the remaining fiscal reform measures that needed legislation. They said the DOF would push for the measures in the coming 14th Congress.

The measures include the rationalization of fiscal incentives, having a simplified net income tax system, the extension of the Special Purpose Vehicle law, and the amendment of the 70-percent cap provision of the VAT law.

IT'S/ B2



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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 8, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	30	29.5	30	721,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	46	44.5	46	3,744,300
China Banking Corp.	770	770	770	770	610
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	.17.5	1,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.52	740,000
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	27	26	27	1,058,700
Philippine National Bank	42	42	41.5	42	29,000
Security Bank Corp.	26.5	27	26	26.5	809,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28	28	15,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	260	265	260	265	150
Manulife Financial Corp.	2640	2640	2640	2640	500
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	135	135	135	135	200
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1880	1920	1880	1920	3,420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATIO					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	10.75	12.75	10.25	12.75	346,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.97	1.02	0.94	1.02	4,440,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	815	800	815	28,590
Ipeople Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.5	86,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.5	2.7	2.46	2.7	10,497,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1550	1600	1550	1595	108,990
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	23,300,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	16	14.5	15.75	201,200
Manila Electric Co. B	23	24.75	22.5	24.75	949,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	1,278,000
Petron Corp.	2.7	2.85	2.65	2.85	6,406,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	254,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.2	7.4	7.1	7.4	755,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	230,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	15,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	430,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.75	2.9	2.75	2.9	220,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	6,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29.5	29	29.5	228,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	182,300
Pancake House Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59.5	60	59.5	60	88,900
San Miguel Corp. B	90	92.5	90	92.5	163,400
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	16	132,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	600,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.008	0.007	0.008	20,000,000
Ayala Corp.	280	287.5	267.5	287.5	292,370
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.55	4.7	4.55	4.7	2,935,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	12,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.84	1.86	1,147,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	20,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	240,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.11	0.1	0.11	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.1	0.95	1.1	51,550,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.22	0.23	0.2	0.23	890,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.38	2.42	2.24	2.38	12,714,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.028	0.028	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	619,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.6	6.1	5.6	6.1	1,461,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	39.5	44	37.5	43.5	4,547,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.1	2,182,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.35	3.05	3.3	1,271,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	130,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.06	1.18	5,434,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.3	0.33	15,020,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.175	0.19	230,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	50,000
SM Investments Corp.	248	248	245	246	157,940
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.16	0.165	1,560,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	700,000
Pryce Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	140,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1	1.04	0.97	1.04	14,525,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.02	1.1	1	1.1	1,468,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	10.75	13	10.75	12.5	1,490,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% pref) series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.3	7.4	6.9	7.4	21,044,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	51,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	250,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.235	0.21	0.23	8,350,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	280,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.37	8,420,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.34	1.2	1.32	10,768,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	200,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.47	0.4	0.47	110,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	2,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	600,000
SM Development Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	113,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.4	7	7.3	19,973,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.007	0.006	0.007	70,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.9	5	4.9	5	227,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	7,980,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	3,390,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	15,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	77,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.005	0.006	180,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	1,070,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.91	0.94	0.9	0.94	1,730,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	29.5	27.5	28	2,343,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	50,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	8,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.135	0.125	0.135	7,700,000

PETROENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION
7th Floor, JMT Building, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City Tel. No. 637-2917/Fax No. 634-6066

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of Stockholders of PetroEnergy Resources Corporation will be held at Rooms 527-528, YIAS, Level 5, Podium 4, RCBC Plaza Building, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City on 27 July 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

(1) Certification of Notice and Quorum;
(2) Determination of Quorum/Call to Order;
(3) Approval of Minutes of the last Regular Stockholders' Meeting held on 17 August 2004;
(4) Approval of Management Report and the 2004 Audited Financial Report contained in the 2004 Financial Statements;
(5) Confirmation and Ratification of all acts, contracts and investment made and entered into by Management and/or Board of Directors during the period of 17 August 2004 to 27 July 2005;
(6) Ratification of 25% Stock Dividend to all stockholders of record as of 12 August 2005 and issued date on 06 September 2005.
(7) Election of Seven (7) members of the Board of Directors for the year 2005-2006;
(8) Appointment of External Auditors;
(9) Other Matters;
(10) Adjournment.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on 27 June 2005 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Regular Meeting of Stockholders.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 2 of the Company's By-Laws, for purposes of election to the Board of Directors, any and all nominations shall be submitted to and received at the principal office of the Corporation on or before July 13, 2005, 5:00 p.m. and addressed to the attention of the Corporate Secretary.

(Sgd.) GUIA SANTOS-QUA
Corporate Secretary

Peso, stocks recover after shaky start

From page B1

points higher at 1,876.28, off a low of 1,813.99. Volume was to 719.4 million shares worth P1.43 billion. Gains led losers 43 to 24, with 40 stocks unchanged.

"Some investors are betting that the inevitable is about to happen," said Astro del Castillo, managing director at First Grade Holdings. "There are rumors of a smooth transition over the weekend."

The peso has shed nearly 4 percent since early June. The central bank on Thursday raised the reserve requirements for banks, a move analysts said was aimed at quelling speculation against the peso.

But markets yesterday were starting to factor in that Ms Arroyo would be forced to quit a position she has held since 2001.

"They think she is going to be out in a few weeks," said Sailesh Jha, regional economist with Credit Suisse. "They are basically buying on the idea that things will be resolved very quickly, and there will be a new government."

With INQUIRER wire reports

It's business . . .

From page B1

At the same time, National Treasurer Omar Cruz said he would stay on despite the resignation of his boss to "keep market order."

"I will continue to run the Treasury. T-bill auctions will continue as scheduled," he said in an interview with reporters, although supporting the move of Purisima and other Cabinet members to quit.

Cruz said the he viewed the resignations as a move that would eventually be responded to positively by the capital markets. "The market reads that this will be resolved quickly. It will catalyze the immediate resolution of the issues," he said.

Purisima also said that the DOF's three major administrative revenue-raising programs—the Run After Tax Evaders, Run After the Smugglers, and the Revenue Integrity Protection Service—would still be pursued.

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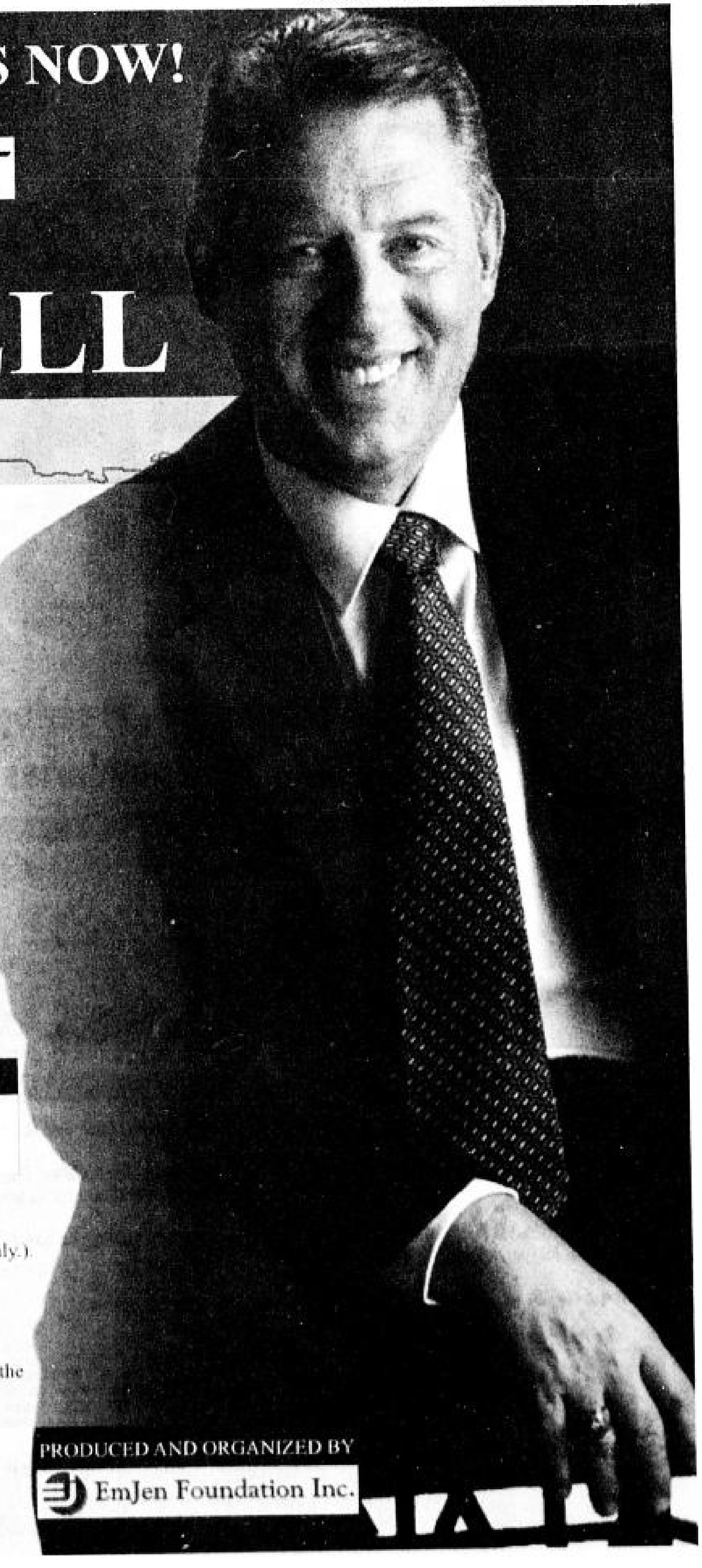

It's all over but the shooting

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NOW this is getting a bit alarming.

It's about the daring announcement of this cute administration of Gloriaetta that it was firing the entire Cabinet.

We do not often see the wholesale sacking of Cabinet members, particularly by this cute administration.

Everybody knows that Gloriaetta had a hard time recruiting "good" people to this cute administration.

Look, she had to settle for guys like DENR Secretary Mike Defensor, didn't she?

* * *

THAT Gloriaetta fired the entire Cabinet was an obvious desperation move.

It's like kicking the ball boy because the other team is up by a thousand points.

It tells us that Gloriaetta is capable of doing anything to hold on to power. And from all indications, she will try to hold on.

That means, for those working (i.e. "plotting") on her ouster to succeed, they may yet need another "people power."

If this cute administration will not hesitate to fire the entire Cabinet, it also will not hesitate to order another kind of "firing."

It could be all over, sure, although it could be all over but the shooting.

* * *

THEY are now talking of who should replace Gloriaetta.

Certain "has-been" public personalities are even suggesting all sorts of intricate schemes, which of course only give them another chance to recycle themselves.

And that's another source of unease down here. It is bad enough that, without the benefit of due process, we are hankering for a change in leadership. Again!

For us, getting rid of leaders before their terms end, mainly through the game of public perception, aided by media campaign, is getting to be the rule.

In other countries, you can only get rid of leaders in the middle of their terms by assassination. We are not suggesting anything, okay?

* * *

WHAT we are only saying down here is, well, we are doing something bad for us—in the long run—by getting rid of one leader after another.

Now we also want to throw away the system of succession. Hey, in case those "has beens" are entertaining any illusion, the one who replaces the President is the Vice President.

On that score, those who are coveting Gloriaetta's position may be facing a dead end. The Vice President happens to be much more popular than Gloriaetta.

The latest SWS survey, for instance, found out that, despite his silence all this time, a lot of people think Noli de Castro is capable of leading the country.

Of course, De Castro cannot say anything on the political turmoil around us. He can neither defend nor attack Gloriaetta, for one, because he stands to benefit either way.

Not only will it not look good for him. He will just add to the noise. In fact, if he as much as moves his lips, people will call him stupid.

* * *

BUT the survey speaks for itself, for now. The SWS found out that 48 percent of the respondents think that De Castro is capable.

And that was even a survey done through the telephone. Only those who have telephone connections were surveyed.

Thus, with De Castro's following among the *masa*, we should not be surprised if his acceptance ratings would go up in a man-in-the-street survey.

Precisely because of his masa appeal, a group of senators was pushing De Castro to go for presidency last year.

But then the late Fernando Poe Jr. came into the picture, forced by the announcement of Gloriaetta that she was lying when she said she would not run anymore.

The fact is, in this country, under the present Constitution, no President has ever been voted by the majority, because of too many candidates.

Our leaders win just by plurality of votes. Certainly, there are many more who did not vote for the sitting President. Most of the people voted for the other 35 dozen candidates.

And so it is said that De Castro does not enjoy the support of the business community.

Well, neither did the concept of "good governance." Still, everybody must follow it or else...

* * *

AND finally, we also worry about the call for the entire Comelec to resign.

This is nothing but stupidity, in the strongest sense of the word.

Whaaat? You mean, boss, if a man relieves himself on the street—instead of using the rather manly pink colored toilets of the MMDA—all men are guilty and should be shot immediately. Is that it?

The last time I looked, only one top official of the Comelec was tainted by the "Hello, Hello Garci" tapes.

None of the other commissioners were on that recording. It seems to all of us down here that "Hello, Hello Garci" was acting alone.

He was the same guy, by the way, who went against the decision of the Comelec en banc to declare FPJ a Filipino citizen.

Right after taking his oath, "Hello, Hello Garci" went to the Supreme Court, asking to reverse the Comelec en banc.

* * *

BUT of course the Supreme Court entertained "Hello, Hello Garci," and not only to humor him, mind you, because the Supreme Court even called for ... well, "experts."

Look at that—it was only a question of law, period. And the Supreme Court was supposed to be ultimate expert when it comes to a "question of law."

Yet the Supreme Court needed "experts" on citizenship. Unfortunately, all the experts said that FPJ was indeed a Filipino, agreeing with the Comelec en banc.

And so the Supreme Court could not say otherwise.

In comparison, when some monkeys asked the Supreme Court to stop the use of counting machines in the last elections, the same "expert-calling" Supreme Court did not even ask for the opinion of even just a computer repairman, not to mention "experts."

Remember that? The Supreme Court ruled on the case, even if it was filed directly with the Supreme Court, without going through a lower court trial.

In the FPJ case, which was a question of law, the Supreme Court needed expert opinion, and if they knew anything, the Supreme Court knew all about the law.

But in the case of the counting machines, which was highly technical, the Supreme Court did not even bother to invite experts.

It just decided on the case just like that. Wonderful.

And the rest, as they say, is history. Those counting machines were part of the Comelec's modernization program.

Thanks to the Supreme Court, all of a sudden, after all the preparation, the Comelec could not use the machines.

The system should have allowed the Comelec to transmit all election results to its head office within 36 hours after the closing of the polls.

And when, based on the tapes, did the alleged cheating happen? Weeks after the polls, right?

Do you think that the Supreme Court should also resign?

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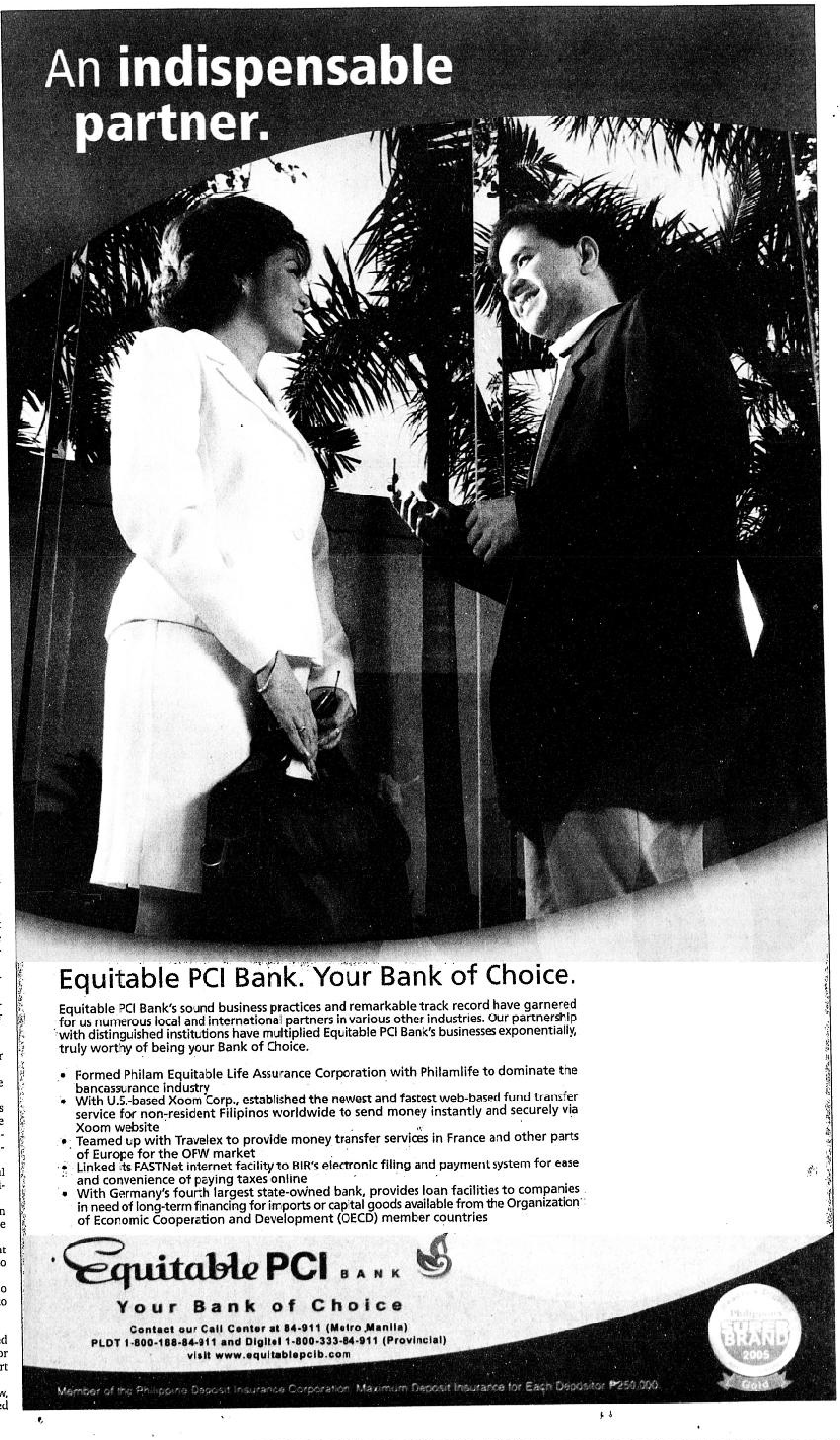

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Slow, not brisk, walking may be better for obese

Strolling can help obese adults burn more calories per kilometer than brisk walking and might even lower the risk of arthritis and injuries to the joints than picking up the pace.

Doctoral student Ray Browning and his colleagues at the University of Colorado at Boulder studied 20 men and women of normal weight and 20 considered obese as they walked set distances at different speeds. They found the obese people burned more calories walking at a slower pace for a longer time than walking at a faster speed.

It might be just the incentive needed for people turned off by the traditional advice to take at least five brisk walks, 30 minutes at a time, per week.

Browning says vigorous exercise can decrease the risk of heart disease and other chronic illnesses, but a slow walk can help people stay active while easing the stress on their joints. Obese adults are more at risk for knee osteoarthritis, which can cause painful stiffness.

"We're not at all advocating less physical activity, or less vigorous activity. We're just saying slow walking might be a way to burn a few extra calories a week," said Browning, a former professional triathlete.

Browning's team is trying to expand on the idea that walking at a more leisurely pace puts less stress on a person's lower body.

Walking differently

Another study is aimed at unlocking a surprise the Colorado researchers came across: previous research showed that a person of normal weight who tried to emulate an obese person by wearing leg weights and walking with a wider leg swing spent 50 percent to 100 percent more energy to walk. But in the latest study, the team found obese individuals spent only about 10 percent more energy than their lighter counterparts.

"Does someone with obesity walk differently than the way normal people walk? Do they do something to make it cheaper to walk? It appears they do something in the walking pattern to make it cheaper," Browning said, meaning they burn fewer calories.

His team guessed that obese people may walk with a straighter leg so the skeleton—rather than muscles—support their weight, or that they walk with shorter, faster steps.

It could be a year or two to find an answer.

"People have speculated on whether differences in the cost of energy expenditure are a factor in weight gain. He's got a way to measure that now," said James Hill, head of the Center for Human Nutrition at the University of Colorado at Denver.

If researchers can unlock the answer, they can find ways for people to spend more energy simply by walking—and sometimes by walking slowly.

"The message we need to give people is, get out and walk," said Hill. "Any speed is fine. Some speeds are better than others, but get out and do it." **AP**

New procedure gives hope to people battling the bulge

By Charles E. Buban

FILIPINOS battling the bulge don't have to feel marginalized. In fact, according to the Philippine Lipid Society, their number is growing steadily as nearly half of the population today is either overweight or obese.

"We are getting fatter and fatter as a society and this should be cause for alarm," says weight reduction specialist Dr. Edward Oliveros, referring to a recent Philippine Lipid Society data that says 23 percent of Filipino adults are overweight while another 20.1 percent are obese.

Oliveros says the more overweight an individual is, the more likely he or she will have health problems.

"Those with severe weight problem risk premature death or significant disability due to weight-related complications such as diabetes, elevated cholesterol, sleep disorders, certain kinds of cancer, breathing problems, and strain on the back, legs and feet," he says .

"We need to find a way to turn this around. How? By losing weight," he says.

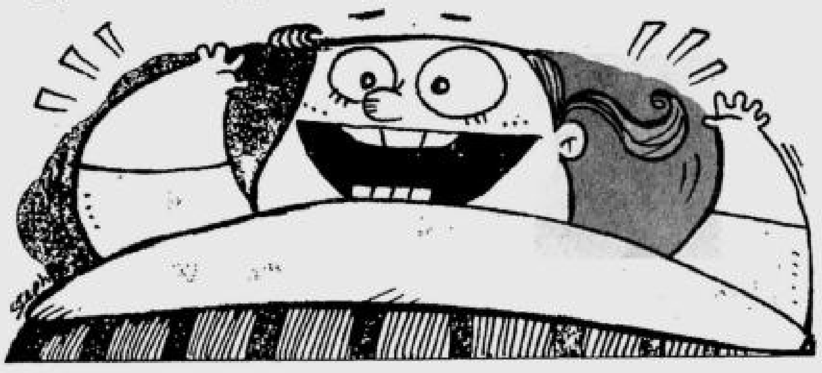
Genetic tendency

But Oliveros says that in most cases, the underlying cause of gaining too much weight is genetic, that is, one inherits the tendency to gain weight.

He says: "Once the [genetic] problem is established, there is very little that one can do about it, any more than a diabetic might control his blood sugar by sheer will power."

The St. Luke's Medical Center Weight Management Center surgical consultant says long-term studies abroad show that more than 90 percent of people who have genetically acquired weight problems fail to achieve lasting improvement in their weight through medical or dietary means.

"For the severely overweight patients who have never been able to keep their excess weight off with diet pills, exercise, or other weight loss programs, we suggest another medical option that may have a better chance of reducing their food intake," says Oliveros.



Balloon in stomach

Oliveros says the BioEnterics Intragastric Balloon (BIB) system, a non-surgical, nonpharmaceutical procedure to treat obesity which is done in conjunction with a supervised diet and behavior modification program offers a better chance in achieving weight loss.

"The BIB system is among the safest and least invasive of the known surgical procedures for obesity," he says.

During the procedure, a balloon made of soft, expandable silicone material is placed into the stomach through the mouth via the esophagus.

Oliveros says there is no need for surgery as the doctor only needs to administer a drug to aid the patient in swallowing the contraption.

"The balloon is inserted while deflated. Once inside the stomach, it is filled with sterile saline solution through a small filling tube (catheter). The catheter is then removed and the balloon, which has a self-sealing valve, will float freely in the stomach," says Oliveros, who is one of the few doctors in the country licensed to perform the procedure.

20-30 minutes

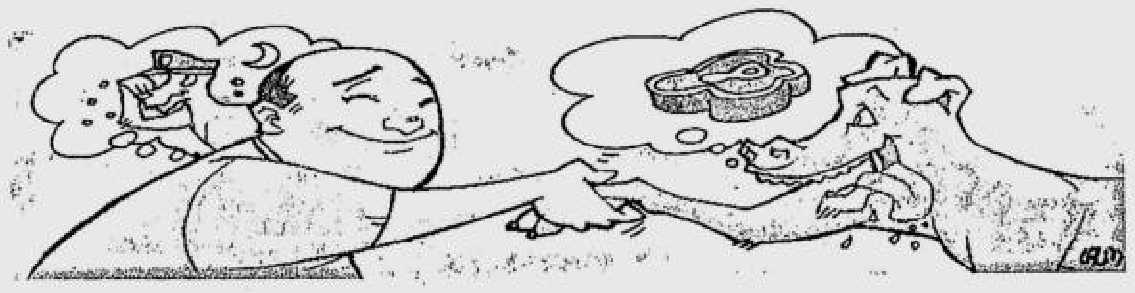
The procedure, which usually takes 20 to 30 minutes, is particularly useful for people considered too overweight or at increased risk for surgery.

He says patients don't feel the presence of the balloon, although they report a significant change in their eating habits because they feel full more quickly.

The BIB system remains in place for a maximum of six months. It can be replaced with a new one if required.

The patient undergoes extensive education and training to learn new principles for healthy living. "The success rate is high since the balloon induces the feeling of fullness and thus, supports the patient in reducing food intake and adopting new dietary habits," says Oliveros.

The doctor says the BIB system costs around P150,000.



A matter of trust

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

TRUST is the underlying factor in most, if not all, social relationships. How that trust is established though, is a question scientists are as yet unable to answer.

Previous studies in animals have suggested that oxytocin, a hormone produced in the hypothalamus which is best known for stimulating milk production in new mothers, is involved.

Oxytocin is also a neurotransmitter that has been shown to promote social behavior in animals, encouraging them to meet others and establish relationships with them. To form such connections would assume that a level of trust has been built between those involved.

Based on this information, economist Ernst Fehr and his colleagues from the University of Zurich theorized that oxytocin plays a role in establishing similarly trust-based social behaviors among human beings.

In the June 2 issue of the journal Nature, Fehr et al. describe their theory and the economic exercises they used to test it.

Why would economists be interested in the biological basis of trust?

Trust, they argued, is so essential to the formation of relationships that "in [its] absence among trading partners, market transactions break down. In the absence of trust in a country's institutions and leaders," they add, "political legitimacy breaks down."

Zurich experiment

Nearly 200 healthy male students from various universities throughout Zurich participated in the study and were paid 80 Swiss francs (approximately P3,500) for their time; about 20 students did not complete the study. To avoid any interactions between the oxytocin and chemicals in the food which could affect the outcome of the study, each student was asked to refrain from smoking and drinking alcohol and caffeinated beverages for 24 hours, and not to eat or drink anything for the two hours prior to the actual start of the experiments.

Fifty minutes before the start of the first experiment, which looked at how trusting investors were, a solution of oxytocin was intranasally given to half the students, while the control group received a placebo.

All students were then given 12 tokens, each worth 40 Swiss centimes (approximately P17). The students were randomly assigned the role of either investor or trustee. The investor first decided how much money to "invest" with an unidentified trustee: 0, 4, 8 or all 12 tokens. The investor's amount was tripled by the researchers just before it reached the trustee, who could then choose to share the profits with the investor or keep all the money for himself.

Each investor made a similar transaction with three other equally anonymous trustees.

Feelings of trust

Fehr et al. theorized that the investors who had been given the oxytocin would be more trusting than those who received the placebos and would therefore give more money. The hypothesis was borne out when 45 percent of the oxytocin recipients invested all 12 of their tokens with the trustees, while only 21 percent of the placebo investors did the same thing.

To prove that the oxytocin promoted feelings of trust rather than made people more likely to take risks, the researchers conducted a second experiment wherein all students acted as investors against a computer "trustee" who randomly chose to either keep or return any tokens received.

This time they found that only 10 percent of the oxytocin group invested all of their tokens, suggesting that the hormone does not promote risk-taking behavior.

Based on these results, if trust is just a nasal inhaler away, what would stop people from spraying large crowds with the hormone to make them trust whoever organized the gathering, be it the politician, religious leader, or someone with a get-rich-quick scheme?

Fehr et al. offer no answers—to be fair, they didn't ask the question—although awareness of this possibility would seem to be part of the answer.

What Dr. Markus Heinrichs, a clinical psychologist at the University of Zurich and one of the study's co-authors, does suggest is that their findings may benefit those with mental disorders associated with social dysfunctions (e.g., social phobia or autism).

Could the inability to form relationships be related to the oxytocin levels in one's body?

At the risk of overusing the word, the public is left to trust that the researchers are just as interested, if not more so, in finding the answers to these questions, and that their findings will be shared in future reports.

Eat a varied diet

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

DESPERATE to fit into her wedding gown, a friend vows to eat nothing but vegetables for six months. Another wants to lose those last pesky 10 pounds for swimsuit season, and decides to concentrate on grapefruit.

These diets, although dreary, sound healthy, don't they? Not really. Both women may fit well into their gown and swimsuit, but they have to be hospitalized soon after for some reason.

Fruits and vegetables are indeed essential for health, but eating the same food, day in day out, could be dangerous.

Recent nutrition science research say that we need almost 50 essential nutrients, such as vitamins, minerals, fats, amino acids, phytochemicals. Common sense dictates that these can be found only in a varied diet, which includes grains, beans, and even animal products, aside from the usual fruits and veggies.

According to the Asian Food Information Centre (AFIC) in Singapore, "An intake of 30 or more different foods per week or more than 12 foods in one day usually characterizes a diet adequate in essential nutrients. Japan's dietary guidelines actually include advice to aim for 30 foodstuffs a day."

AFIC adds: "A varied diet will include a broad selection of foods across the whole range, or most of the traditional food groups, such as vegetables, fruits, cereals, meat, fish and dairy products. A varied diet will also include a good mix of foods within each of these groups—eating two bananas and three carrots each every day may meet the five portions of fruit and vegetables per day target, but will not provide the body with even half the potentially healthful phytochemicals that scientists have identified in fruit and vegetables."

A varied diet tends to "balance out the positive and negative interactions among food components" and balances availability of nutrients by providing them in different forms from various foods.

Also, a varied diet cuts out the boredom factor. It is more enjoyable, and can give us a glimpse into the cultures of other peoples. Of course, health issues are paramount. Moreover, a varied diet has been shown to protect against onset of diabetes, some cancers, cardiovascular disease, blood vessel degeneration, weight control.

Tips for variety

What can we do then? AFIC gives the following tips to increase food variety:

- Choose food that already provide variety, such as multigrain breads and mueslis.
- Serve accompaniments, like fruit/vegetable salads, pickles, chutneys.
- Stir fries, casseroles, soups and salads are an easy way to increase vegetable variety by using lots of ingredients.
- Be adventurous. Expanding your taste to enjoy a variety of foods can be fun and exciting.
- Aim to regularly try a fruit or vegetable that is not familiar. For example, when shopping for groceries, get food you don't normally buy.
- Enjoy a variety of international cuisine.
- Set aside time to enjoy meals, drinks, and snacks. Take an interest in the wide range of foods available and the preparation methods.

Develop habit early

Eating well is a practice which should be developed early. AFIC advises, "Regularly offering new foods and new preparation methods for foods to young children are common and very sound advice for parents who wish to establish lifelong healthy eating and lifestyle habits in their children.

"Of course, many children develop strong food likes and dislikes, and for parents who feel their children are 'picky eaters,' providing and encouraging consumption of a varied diet can seem an impossible task. In these instances, it's important to avoid confrontation and instead encourage children to take an interest and pleasure in food and drink [for example, by involving them in selection, preparation, shopping of foods] and take a long-term approach by continuing to offer new foods in small amounts alongside favorites, and always remembering that most personal fads will pass over time."

Bon appetit!

OIL WE NEED TO KNOW

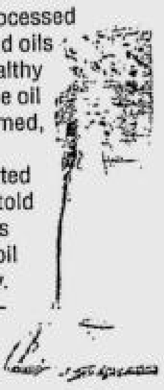
Text and art by Lynett A. Villariba

Fat Facts 3

✓ Nutritionists recommend that we get **30%** of our calories from fats and oils that (1) lubricate our joints and intestines, (2) strengthen cell membranes, (3) nourish the skin, and (4) restore fat-soluble nutrients to the tissues. We have to make sure we get the right food oil to do just that.

✓ Food oil is made up of **fatty acids**—individual fat molecules whose length of carbon chain determine health properties. **Medium-chain** fatty acids are more soluble and not stored as fats like **long-chain** fatty acids.

✓ **Saturation** of hydrogen atoms in fat molecules gives oil stability and shelf life. Oxygen, heat and light cause **unsaturated** fatty acids to (1) turn rancid, (2) form trans fats, (3) create free radicals. Food oils—consisting of both saturated and unsaturated fatty acids—are to be timely consumed, sealed tight, **bottled in glass** and stored in cabinets.



When it was found that highly processed polyunsaturated oils were not as healthy as the vegetable oil producers claimed, they created a monounsaturated canola oil and told us that this was the healthiest oil better than any. Nutritional biochemists look beyond the hype:

The food industry initially turned to monounsaturated olive oil, which has a "better" effect than polyunsaturated oils on cholesterol levels and other blood parameters. But since there was not enough olive oil in the world to meet its needs and—like butter and other traditional fats—was too expensive to use in most processed foods, the industry looked for a cheaper alternative.

62% 77%

Monounsaturated

Canola oil

Olive oil

- Monounsaturated fats have a pair of hydrogen atoms missing in their long carbon chain to make the oil **good for cooking in medium—but not high— heat**.
- High in omega-3 essential fatty acid, its lack of protective saturates **may prove problematic to health.**
- An original monounsaturate, the oil is **healthy for raw salad dressings**, and **stable for sauteing**. It has the highest oleic fatty acids (55%) beneficial to the heart, one of the highest natural sources of vitamin E .

Genetically modified

In 1978, Canadian plant breeders altered rapeseed genes to created a new variety that produced a monounsaturated oil low in toxic erucic acid and high in oleic.

The **Low Erucic Acid Rapeseed** (LEAR) oil was known commercially as "canola," for "Canadian oil."

Canola oil is processed by high-heat pressing and solvent extraction and goes through deodorization, caustic refining, bleaching and degumming using chemicals.

Natural / Cold press

Extra virgin olive oil, stone-crushed in the ancient technique developed by Greeks and Romans from the fruits picked around the fertile Mediterranean coast, has richer tastes, more minerals, purer nutrients and higher alkalinity.

Virgin olive oil, cold pressed free of chemicals or high heat, has rich flavor, color and aroma, minerals and nutrients.

Expeller-pressed olive oil, extracted mechanically without chemicals, has less nutrients but still retains its essential fatty acids.

30 years biotechnology

In the mid-1980s, the food industry used biotechnology to trumphet a fatty acid profile of low saturated fat, rich in monounsaturates, with omega-3 fatty acids beneficial to the heart.

Canola became the oil of choice in gourmet cookbooks and Dr. Artemis Simopoulos's The Omega Diet (1999), and appeared as a "cholesterol lowering" ingredient in margarines and spreads.

2,500 years benefits

The ancient Greeks bathed with olive oil to nourish their skin. Hippocrates (260-377 B.C.) prescribed olive oil for healing ulcers, cholera and muscular pains.

Today, people in the Mediterranean region still have two tablespoons of olive oil as their first food for breakfast each morning. The Mediterranean diet is a balance of monounsaturated oil and natural saturates of cheese and meat.

Not heart-healthy

Research shows canola's benefits are outweighed by harmful effects:

Canola's imbalanced fatty acid ratio increase heart and cancer risks.

Overabundance of monounsaturated fatty acids against very low saturates create a cellular imbalance linked to an increased risk of breast cancer and heart disease.

Animal studies (1978, 1979, 1982, 1997, 1998) point out that canola (1) is not healthy for the cardiovascular system (2) is associated with fibriotic heart lesions, (3) causes vitamin E deficiency and (4) a decrease in the blood platelets in animals fed with canola oil, and (5) seems to retard growth, prompting the USFDA to disallow its use in infant formula.

✓ **Canola's processing method produces trans fats**

Most of its omega-3s are transformed into toxic trans fats during deodorization, forming as much as 50% trans fats when partially hydrogenated in margarines and shortenings . Unless oil processors address this problem, canola oil remains unsafe.

✓ **Hybridized canola is untested**

Dr. Enig says that since the hybridized oil was hastily produced, no long-term studies on humans have been done that would ensure canola as safe.

Heart-healthy

As a monounsaturate, however, olive oil is still susceptible to heat-caused oxidation. For this reason, olive oil is most beneficial when taken raw, great for salads, good for sauteing in low heat but is not healthy for cooking in high heat.

Olive oil lowers heart disease risks

Loaded with essential omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids with a better balance of protective saturates than canola oil, olive oil is beneficial for the heart.

Consumption of olive oil is a major reason why Mediterranean people have a far lower incidence of heart disease than Americans.

✓ **Olive oil can prevent cancer**

High in Vitamin E, olive oil has antioxidant properties that deactivate free radicals, allowing the body to overcome illness and maintain more acute mental and muscular faculties.

An excellent alkaline fat source, extra virgin olive oil has the ability to dissolve mucus and cooked food residues in the body.

✓ **Olive oil nourishes the skin**

Olives and their oil are one of the highest natural sources of vitamin E— known to erase fine lines on the face, repair connective tissue, heal the circulatory system and impart its soothing properties upon the digestive system.

SOURCES: Mary Enig,Ph.D., "The Great Con-ola," David Wolfe, "Eating for Beauty," Bruce Fife, ND, "Eat Fat, Look Thin"

Harmonizing environment, economy

By Leonarda N. Camacho
Contributor

A STUDY by 1,300 experts in 95 countries discovered that humans are destroying our planet at an unprecedented rate and overexploiting two-thirds of the ecological systems on which human life depends.

Each year, approximately 31 million hectares of rain forests are destroyed all over the world.

In the Philippines, of the 15 million hectares classified as forestlands, 6.5 million hectares are still forested, with less than a million hectares of virgin forests. Some 8.5 million hectares are denuded.

There are 28 bodies of water polluted by mining operations. There are 22 abandoned mine sites despite an executive order that requires that remediation and and rehabilitation of abandoned mines be given top priority.

Our fishing grounds are being rapidly depleted, mostly by foreign poachers. Industrial fishing fleets are rapidly outstripping our supply of fish.

Local subsistence fisherfolk are the worst-affected. They cannot compete with destructive fishing methods such as dynamite, cyanide, purse-seine, "zipper" (blocks of cement dropped on corals). The Pacific Ocean and the China Sea are exploited by industrial fishermen.

These activities are what humans call economic development or growth.

Cost of economic activity

Economics as a subject is taught in schools without any consideration of its most fundamentals component: the environment, which is the systems of nature on which all economic life must ultimately depend.

For example, economists measure the value of produce coming from a farm but do not subtract the amount of topsoil eroded in the process and the effect of toxic run-off from chemical fertilizers and insecticides.

Economists do not regard deforestation soil degradation, air and water pollution as costs of economic activity.

The cost of environmental degradation and public health could run to billions of pesos.

Some economists consider environment concerns as obstacles to growth. Actually, economic growth and sustainable development are very compatible. They can and should be harmonized. Environmental protection makes economic sense.

How to harmonize

Here are ways we can harmonize the environment and economy to create a win-win situation.

- Review all environment laws and policies and all laws pertaining to the economy. Come up with laws that balance human needs and nature.
- Environment-friendly governance is necessary; hence, education must be the priority. Schools must prioritize the study of nature and moral values.
- Energy transition is necessary. Harness and store the world's vast supplies of wind, biomass and other forms of solar energy which are more abundant than oil.
- Save water.
- Shift to organic farming, veer away from excessive consumption of chemical products.
- Stabilize the population by improving the economic and social status of women. Design cities to reduce distances traveled between home and work, shopping and school. In urban transit systems, shift emphasis from cars to public transportation, bicycling and walking.
- Stop the rush to use genetically modified organisms in agriculture.
- Reduce the use of harmful chemicals in the production process. For example, glucose is better than benzene; paper can be bleached without use of chlorine or chlorine-based compounds.
- Revamp the educational system. Make moral values the priority, and love for nature will follow.
- Reduce air, water and land pollution. Enforce the solid waste management law. Garbage in open dumpsites emit methane gas, pollute the water and land. Recycle and reuse materials to preserve natural resources.
- Protect forest-dwelling and indigenous peoples. They are the caretakers of our forests and part of nature.
- Protect the forests by providing livelihood for kaingeros.
- Bamboo is the savior of our environment. It is a substitute for timber and mild steel. It grows anywhere and fast. It provides food and shelter. They should cultivate bamboo.
- Buy only what you need. Overconsumption weighs on natural resources.
- Slow down on the construction of shopping malls. Besides increasing air pollution and consumption of energy, they displace small retailers and entrepreneurs and cause poverty. We already have an overabundance of malls.
- Slow down on building golf courses. They consume gallons of water daily and pollute the land with chemical fertilizers and encourage destruction of corals which they use for markers.

(The author is connected with the Unesco Commission on Science and Technology)

Health updates

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

(First of two parts)

HERE are some nuggets of health information from the articles in the Health & Lifestyle magazine.

Tips to avoid drug interactions

Taking more than one medication may put one at risk for possible drug interactions, which may result in dangerous side effects, among others.

Here are some tips to reduce drug interaction risks:

- Inform (or remind) your doctor of all prescription medications, over-the-counter (OTC) drugs, supplements and vitamins you're taking.
- Read drug labels carefully, follow medicine indications and know the possible side effects of the medicines you are taking.
- Keep a list of all the medications you take.
- If you are taking a prescription medicine, check with your doctor before taking an OTC drug or supplement.
- Tell your doctor if you experience symptoms of a possible drug interaction such as skin rashes, easy bruising, heartburn, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea or constipation, dizziness, drowsiness, sedation or confusion, or any new or unexplained symptoms.

Weight and breast cancer

Exercise and less weight gain lower breast cancer risk

Exercise and less weight gain considerably reduce the likelihood of contracting breast cancer, according to a large epidemiological study.

The study, published in the journal Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, showed that women with low levels of physical activity and higher body mass index levels have more than twice the risk of developing breast cancer than women who undertake 45 minutes of brisk walking or 20 minutes of vigorous exercise per day.

Lingering effects of child abuse and neglect

Childhood trauma and loss can upset the brain's regulation of stress responses which, in turn, cause prolonged hypersensitivity to stress, reports the Harvard Mental Health Letter.

Researchers looked for ways to prevent and reverse the effects of childhood trauma. They concluded that choice of treatment may depend on the nature of the childhood experience as mistreatment does not cause the same brain changes in all. In addition, individual genetic characteristics and the kind of stress—parental loss, neglect, or abuse—should be taken into consideration.

The researchers said learning more about the biological consequences of child mistreatment through brain imaging and molecular genetic studies will help scientists define the causes and nature of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress symptoms.

Alcohol

Heavy drinking raises mental health risk

Women who drink in excess—more than six drinks per week—are more likely to experience depression and anxiety, says a new study published in the journal Addiction.

Researchers from The University of Queensland and the University of Bristol found that women who have more than 15 drinks a week have an increased risk of experiencing mental illness.

The study also shows that light drinking—up to five drinks per week—is associated with the lowest rates of anxiety and depression for women in their early 30s. However, for women in their 20s and 40s, those who don't drink any alcohol have the lowest rates of symptoms.

Reduced lung function increases CV risk

Reduced lung function may increase risk of developing cardiovascular disease, shows a new study published in CHEST.

Researchers studied 1,861 patients (from the first National Health and Examination Survey Epidemiologic Follow-up Study) and found that those with the most reduced lung function as measured by FEV1 (forced expiratory volume in one second) have five times the risk of ischemic heart disease when compared with patients having strong lung function.

Depression after heart attack

One in five hospitalized heart attack patients experiences a major depression, finds researchers at Johns Hopkins' Evidenced-Based Practice Center.

What's more, these depressed patients are 50 percent more likely than other heart attack patients to be hospitalized with another heart problem within a year and three times as likely to die from a future attack or other heart-related conditions.

But who among the heart attack patients are more likely to get depressed is hard to tell, according to researchers, because the average patient recuperates and is ready to go home from the hospital after 72 hours, and many symptoms of depression develop later.

BIONIC ARM
AUSTRALIAN Peter Eberle (left), wearing a new-generation German-made bionic arm, wrestles with prosthetist David Wilson-Brown. Eberle a train driver, lost his arm 10 years ago and has now become the first person in the world to be fitted with the "Dynamic Arm," which has a motor built into the artificial hand.
AFP/CAULFIED MEDICAL CENTER

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Avoiding large fillings

I NOTICED that my father's fillings are large and dark colored. How can that be prevented? —John M.

Your father's fillings are most likely silver fillings made a long time ago. The silver material turns very dark in color, and years ago, the size of the cavity preparation needed to be larger than the cavity.

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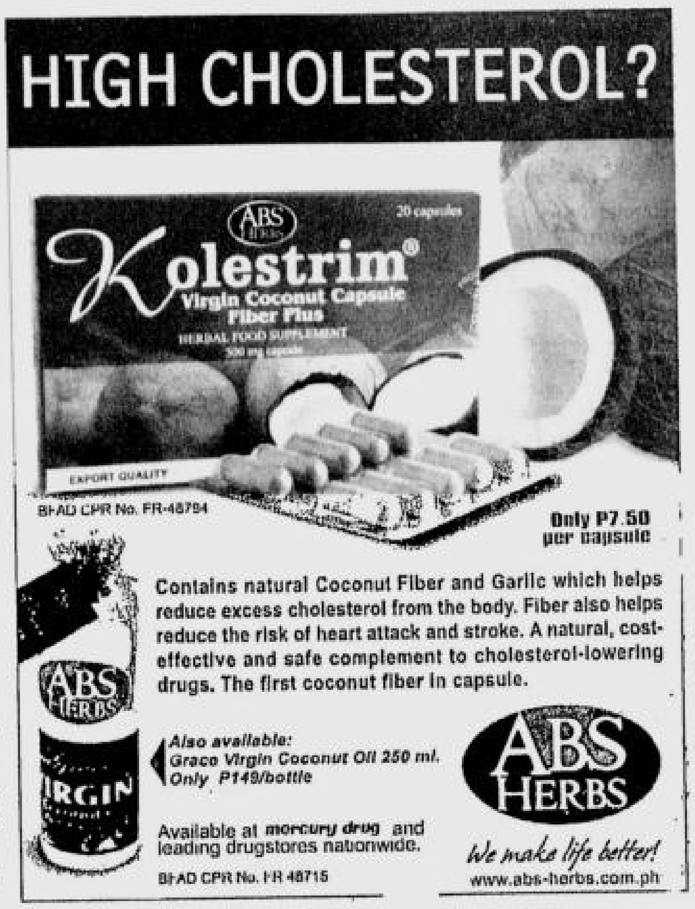

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MR. CHUJIRO ASAHINA
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PROF. SONIA F. BELLAN
(Italy)
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  Network equipments maintenance knowledge required
  Familiar with TCP/IP
  MCSE, CCNA, RHCE License will be a plus
- **Database System Analyst**
  College or University graduate
  Hands-on good skill in SA Database access, MSSQL, MYSQL
  Candidates must be experienced with designs of computer process
  Strong analytical skill
- **On-line Sales & Marketing Representative**
  College or University graduate
  Good command of English
  Basic computer operation skill required
  Experience in consumer goods in multinational company will be a plus
  Strong Sales skill
  Organized and independent worker who has a great team spirit

Interested and qualified applicants, please send up-to-date resumé in English with latest photo to e-mail: Steed@twnese.com and Copy to E-Mail: esteken@yahoo.com.tw

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE HEIRS OF THE LATE REMEDIOS P. DIAZ-OPEÑA HAVE EXECUTED AN EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS AS PER DOC. NO. 456 PAGE NO. 93 BOOK NO. 146 SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE ATTY. IMELDA JIRO CRUZ-NERY, A NOTARY PUBLIC. (PDI JULY 9,16 & 23, 2005)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE
O, Holy St Jude Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman to Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart, I humbly beg your great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and most urgent need. In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke thy aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eight day your prayers will be answered.
Thank You Holy Spirit.

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HON. MAYOR JOSE VICENTE "DODONG" ACERO DEL ROSARIO

March 3, 1965 – July 4, 2005

Municipal Mayor of Veruela,
Agusan Del Sur, 1998 until demise
Ateneo De Davao Grade School 1978
Philippine Science High School, Quezon City, 1982
University of the Philippines at Los Baños, 1989

He had been offered to the Father Almighty by his loving family; wife **Kleng-Kleng Ong del Rosario** and daughter **Dee**; parents **Vicente** and **Jasmin**; parents-in-law **Francis** and **Helen**; siblings **Rosevic** and **Jojo Cembrano**, **Joy** and **Jay Raya**, **Nanie** and **Rene Almero**, **Yakyak** and **Bobby Garrido**, **Ritzie** and **Shiela Vida**, and **Lester** and **Kathrina Suan**; sister-in-law **Joie Ong**; nephews and nieces **Kyla**, **Obi**, **Celina**, **Jan**, **Jill**, **Jeff**, **Joe**, **Hans**, **Joshua**, **Ella** and **Kassi**.

The family is greatful to all their relatives and friends who are praying for his peaceful and holy journey and eternal rest in Heaven and who are helping them in any way in their hour of bereavement.

Dodong's remains lie in state at the Hermes Chapel, Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Davao City. Interment will be on July 11, 2005 at the San Pedro Memorial Park after the 8:30 AM holy mass at the Assumption Parish, Davao City.

"Why should we weep and fear, and call it dying?
It's merely flying to a summer land."

– SITD

ARACELI MARIA PINTO-MANSOR

Peacefully joined our Creator
on July 7, 2005 at the age of 69.

A loving and devoted wife to Ely
A doting mother to Nikko

We wish to inform our relatives and friends
that her cremains will be at the Santuario de San Antonio,
Capilla de San Francisco in Forbes Park, Makati from July 8 to 10, 2005.

We miss her dearly - husband ELIAS, *son* NICCOLO,
sisters THELMA & REGULO ESGUERRA,
RUBY & HERMINIO ESTANIEL,
OPHELIA & MARCELO NUGUID
and SONIA & RENE NER,
brother MANUEL PINTO, Jr.,
sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law
MARIA MYRNA & WILFREDO VIRAY (†),
and TERESITA & REDENTOR ALEGRE.

Interment services
will be held at the St. James The Great Church, Ayala Alabang
at 5:00pm on Tuesday, July 12, 2005.

I took HIS HAND when I heard HIM call
I turned my back and left it all.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
GOD wanted me now, HE set me FREE...

Our Beloved

HELENITA MARIA MERCADO-HENSON

"NINI"

(October 1, 1963 – July 6, 2005)
of San Fernando and Apalit, Pampanga

Peacefully joined our CREATOR last July 6, 2005.

She is survived by her husband **Rosve**; her children **Ralph Daniel & Karen**, **Von Karmel**, **Helen Nicolette** and **Rose Venette**; her grandson **Isen Roi**; her mother **Zenaida Macalino vda Mercado**; her sisters **Herma & Elmer Simon**; **Nona & Nandy Dizon**, **Hilda & Lancel Lagman**; her brothers **Honorio Jr. & Lou**; **Honest & Beng**, **Harry & Ethel** and **Henry & Minette**.

Her family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the **Good Shepherd Memorial Park** at Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at 3:00 PM after the offering of the Holy Mass at the **Good Shepherd Memorial Park.**

WE, the family of

LUCIANO NAZARIO NIGUIDULA

who passed away on July 6, 2005
at 98 years old

Remember him with the deepest love and affection. His memory will be treasured forever. Though our hearts are filled with sorrow, we find comfort in knowing that he is now with GOD and his beloved wife, **HONORATA S. NIGUIDULA**.

From his loving children, **BEN** and **Orleta Tahimic**; **JAIME** and **Rosario Huvilla**; **LUZ** and **Vic delos Reyes**; **TITO** and **Aurea Relucio**; **LINA** and **Cornelio Gison**, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren and brothers and sisters, **Bernardo** (†), **Romelias** (†), **Nestor** (†), **Chloe N. Paulate**, **Pacifico** (†), **Conrado**, **Ana Victoria Manayon**, **Faustino**, **Lydia** (†), and **Josue**.

His body now lies in state at the Ellinwood Malate Church, 1660 Vasquez St., Malate. Necrological services will be held on July 9, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. and Committal services on July 10, 2005 at 11:30 A.M., both at Ellinwood Church. Interment will be on Sunday July 10, 2005 at 2:30 P.M. at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat.

On July 6, 2005, our beloved Daddy

CANDIDO P. MANZON

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord

His loving wife **Lumen Esquivel Manzon**; children **Susan**, **Gerry** and **Lucy**, **Rene** and **Connie**, **Myn**; and grandchildren request for prayers for the repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at Chapel A, Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows Subdivision, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be on Monday, July 11, 2005 at Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows Subdivision, Quezon City at 9:00 A.M.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

The Chairman, Board of Trustees, Deans,
Faculty Members and Employees of
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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Condole with the family of

Celerino Jhocson Paguia, Jr.

(Coach Sonny)
Former President of the UAAP
Member, Board of Directors-UAAP
Director, Physical Education Department, NU

Who peacefully joined his Creator on July 6, 2005 at the age of 72.
His remains lie in state at Chapel B5 Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Q.C.
We request pious readers and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:
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DOLORES LIWANAG CAJATOR

of Tarlac City, Tarlac

peacefully joined her Creator on July 7, 2005
at the age of 91.

Devoted wife to husband, **Andres**; guiding light to children **Imelda & Reynaldo Briones, Marilyn** (†) **& Antonio Herrera, Pedro & Rosanna**; and grandchildren **Anjeanette Ma.** (†) **Briones, Reynaldo C. Briones, & Christine Briones, Miguel Antonio & Richelle Herrera, Carlos Antonio Herrera & Aaronessa Herrera, Peter Andrew & Celine Angela**, sisters, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends. Pious readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of her soul and guidance through her final journey.

Her remains lie in state at the family mausoleum at the Eternal Memorial Park, San Sebastian, Tarlac City. Interment will be held on Sunday, July 10, 2005 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

COLUMBINA S. ENCINAS

of Sorsogon, Sorsogon

Peacefully joined her Creator
on July 6, 2005 at the age of 78.

Her bereaved husband **Levi**; children, **Levi Jr.** and **Val, Tito** and **Gigi**, **Bing-Bing** and **Bert, Gundy** and **Tobe, Marichu** and **Edwin, Irene** and **Pablo, Cherry Pie** and **Edwin;** grandchildren, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at the Mortuary of St. Raphael Parish Church, Legazpi City.

Interment to follow.

I have fought
the good fight,
I have finished
the race,
I have kept
the faith

(2 Timothy 4)

In Loving Memory
on the 5th Death Anniversary

GABRIELA B. ELEOSIDA
PRESENTACION B. BAUTISTA

of Batac, Ilocos Norte and Kidapawan City

Holy Masses will be offered in the following churches:

Our Lady of Mediatrix *Kidapawan City*	6:00 a.m.
Immaculate Conception *Vista Verde, Cainta*	6:00 a.m.
Isabella de Rocis *Italy*	6:00 a.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills*	6:00 a.m.
St. Genevieve *Panorama City*	6:00 a.m.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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I. **CV Anesthesiology Division**
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

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- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics

III. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division**
- 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

RESIDENCIES IN: (for Medical Board Passers)

IV. **CV Radiological Sciences Division**
V. **Nuclear Medicine Section**
VI. **Biological and Clinical Laboratory Division**
VII. **1 year Fellowship Program (CV Radiological Sciences / Nuclear Medicine / Biological & Clinical Lab.)**
- Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2005
- Academic Year 2004 starts on January 1, 2006

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2" x 2" colored picture
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:
JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with tel. nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Makati City

MICHAEL MENDOZA,
Petitioner,
- versus -
FLAVIANA (PAGKALINAWAN)
PAGKALIWANGAN,
Respondent
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Intervenor.
x - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

SSC CASE NO. 12-15616-03

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION/ORDER

TO : MS. FLAVIANA PAGKALIWANGAN

GREETINGS :

Notice is hereby given that on the 8th day of June, 2005, a **RESOLUTION** consisting of 3 pages, was promulgated in the above-mentioned case, the dispositive portion of which reads as follows:

> "**WHEREFORE**, the instant petition is hereby granted. This Commission finds petitioner Michael Mendoza the illegitimate son and the sole primary beneficiary of deceased member Manuel V. Mendoza.
>
> Accordingly, the SSS is hereby ordered to pay the petitioner the SS death and dependent's pension benefit in full, accrued from the demise of the SSS member on October 11, 2000 until the petitioner reached the age of twenty-one (21) on March 10, 2003, less payments already made, subject to its existing rules and regulations, and to inform this Commission of its compliance herewith.
>
> **SO ORDERED.**"

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

(PDI - July 9, 2005)

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nzaid LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROJECT
NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regional Office 13 (Caraga)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Economic and Development Authority Regional Office 13 (Caraga) - Local Government Unit Management Training Project, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites consulting firms to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted to bid for the hereunder services:

Title — **Training Consulting Services**

Brief Description — The Training Consulting Firm (TCF) shall (a) conduct TNA i.e ; assess training needs of local government units and local training/service institutions in the Caraga region; (b) conduct conference/meetings with local institutions providing training services to LGUs and assist in the development and implementation of a plan to organize a pool of local service providers; (c) design and pre-test project and program development and management training courses/modules, package and pre-test training manuals, templates and guidebooks; (d) conduct project and program development and management training for selected LGUs and institutions in the Caraga region; as well as (e) facilitate the drafting, finalization and packaging of LGU project studies for presentations to local development councils and other investors.

Approved Budget for the Contract : PhP1,658,800
Source of Funding : New Zealand Agency for International Development Grant for LGUMTP
Contract Duration 5.5 months

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel, current workload and financial standing. Only five eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality based Evaluation (QBE).

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule/Deadline
1. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	18 July 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	4 July - 19 July 2005
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	26 July 2005
4. Results of Eligibility Check	28 July 2005
5. Results of Short Listing	29 July 2005
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	29 July - 3 Aug. 2005
7. Pre-bid Conference	5 Aug. 2005

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at **LGUMTP-NEDA Caraga Office, Nimfa Tiu Building, J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City Tel. Nos. (085)3420181/3425774, Fax Nos. (85)3602055/8150308 Email: nzaidlgumtp neda@yahoo.com** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **PhP1,000.00** to the **NEDA Caraga cashier**. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office. For further enquiries contact, Ms. Luraine Baybay Villacorta, LGUMTP Project Director.

Bid documents will be available only to the shortlisted bidders upon payment of PhP1,000.00 to the NEDA Caraga cashier.

LGUMTP-NEDA Caraga assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **CARMENCITA S. COCHINGCO**
Regional Director

(PDI - July 2 & 9, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Telephone Nos. 925-47-93 to 97
E-mail: emb@emb.gov.ph
Visit us at http //www.emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

on the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)** of
SALCON POWER CORPORATION
located in Naga, Cebu

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the 2 X 100 MW COAL FIRED POWER PLANT of SALCON POWER CORPORATION to attend a Public Hearing scheduled on August 6, 2005, 2:00 PM at Naga Sports Center.

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned Project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should first register in person or by mail with the EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City c/o Mr. Rey P. Alcances, EIA Division Chief or with the Environmental Management Bureau Region VII (Banilad, Mandaue City), prior to the said hearing.

Individual and/or organizations may give their opinion in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB/EMB Region VII on or before August 4, 2005.

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB through Engr. Allen B. Villanueva or Ms. Jannish S. Almario at telephone nos. (02) 920-2240 to 41.

(PDI - July 9 & 13, 2005)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that Bayer Philippines, Inc., the authorized local agent of Lanxess (Pty) Ltd. (South Africa) declared the loss of the original Bill of Lading while in transit from South Africa to Manila.

Following are the Original Bill of Lading details:

Bill of Lading No : DURPHMNLO503201
Dated : 17 June 2005
Dated at : Durban, South Africa
Sailing Date : 17 June 2005
Vessel : Bunga Teratai 4
Voyage : V429E
From : Durban to Manila, Philippines
Shipper : LANXESS (Pty) Ltd
Consignee : To order Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., Manila
Notify Party : Northern Chemical Sales (Manila)
Description of Goods : Chromosal B
4 x 6 m containers

This is in compliance with our request for shipping company to release the goods under bank guarantee.

THE MANAGEMENT
BAYER PHILIPPINES, INC.
Agent for Lanxess (Pty) Ltd.

(PDI - July 9, 2005)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-33-66, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO BID

(Re-bidding)

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested suppliers/ dealers to participate in the pre-qualification and E-bidding for the supply & delivery of the following items:

Quantity	Items/Description
64 units	**Desktop Computers-Intel Celeron 2.53 Processor**
12 units	**Desktop Computers-Intel Pentium IV Processor**
	Various Printers, UPS and AutoCAD

As per MWSI Technical Specification & E-Bid Terms and Conditions.

Interested bidders may, beginning July 7 until July 11, 2005 and upon payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of P2,000.00 payable to MWSI, obtain further information and secure a complete set of pre-qualification forms and bid terms and conditions from MWSI-Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City (Tel. No. 435-33-66 or 435-33-74). Payment can be made in form of Cash or Manager's Check addressed to Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI).

Deadline for the submission of accomplished pre-qualification documents and financial proposal is on July 12, 2005; 10:00 AM, at the above stated address.

MWSI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any and all informalities therein and accept the bid it deemed most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **LUIS Z. LERMA**
Manager, Purchasing Dept.

(PDI - July 8 & 9, 2005)

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Universitas 21 Global launched in Manila

DR MICHAEL Goldberg, chief academic officer of Universitas 21 Global (U21G) the world's premier graduate school hosted the launch at the Le Souffle Restaurant, Rockwell Club, in Makati.

CEOs, corporate and HR executives from leading Philippine corporations attended the launch. Most of these corporations have expressed interests or are currently sponsoring their executives in U21G, as part of their commitment to continuous learning.

"U21 Global provides a challenging and rewarding MBA learning experience that allows our students to earn and learn. The flexibility of our on-line pedagogy allows our busy students to balance their work and family lives with increasingly arduous travel and meeting demands. Our student body averages between 33 and 34 years of age with 8 to 9 years of management experience, so that the opportunities are extensive for students to learn from each other and network as a result of our group projects, discussion boards and chat rooms. The result is a learning environment that provides highly valuable and usable knowledge and the chance to make it work for students and their organizations by applying daily what is being learned so that work and learning are closely linked and reinforce each other" said Michael Goldberg.

Thomas Ng, president of Genashtim Phils Inc, who is the exclusive recruitment partner for U21G in the Philippines, added, "this is a high quality program, put together, and owned by some of the most prominent universities across 4 continents. By leveraging technology and the Internet, it is delivered in a way that does not compromise the career of busy executives who are always on the move, or their social and personal commitments. And with already more than 700 students from more than 40 countries, it provides unparalleled learning diversity, and global networking."

U21G, the world's premier online Graduate School, is a joint venture between Universitas 21, and Thomson Learning, a provider of tailored learning solutions for individuals and businesses worldwide. Universitas 21 is a network of 16 distinguished universities - McGill University (Canada), University of British Columbia (Canada), University of Virginia (US), University of Birmingham (UK), University of Glasgow (UK), University of Nottingham (UK), Lund University (Sweden), Albert-Ludwigs Universitat Freiburg (Germany), University of Edinburgh (UK), Fudan University (China), University of Hong Kong, National University of Singapore, University of Melbourne (Australia), University of Auckland (NZ), University of New South Wales (Australia) and University of Queensland (Australia).

MARIXI Prieto - chair, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Robbie Delgado - chair, Transnational Diversified Group.

ALAN Morrell - Senior Trade Commissioner, Australia; Michael Goldberg - chief academic officer, U21 Global; Robert McCubbing, 2nd Secretary and Trade Commissioner, Canada

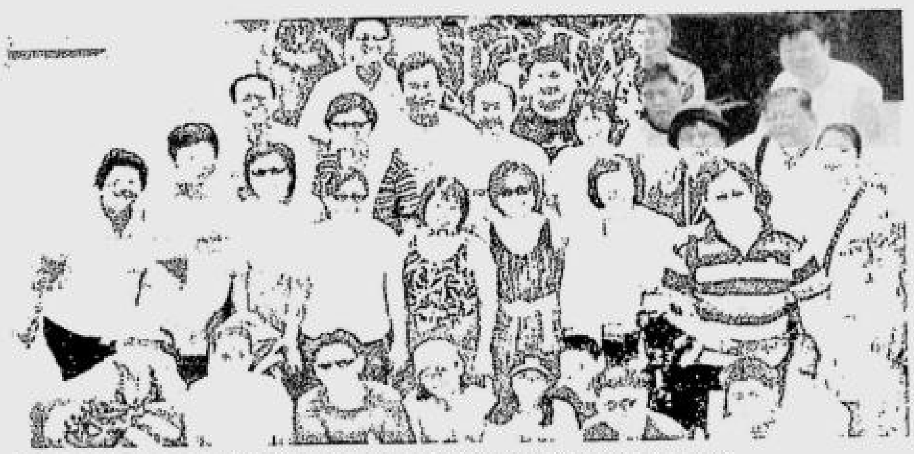
Better Sexual Health through
MEN'S HEALTH CHECK

MEN'S HEALTH TALK

Dr. Jose Albert C. Reyes III, founding president of the Philippine Society for the Study of the Aging Male, discussed the importance of having good sexual health with participants of DZMM's 'D-Day' event, which marked this year's celebration of Father's Days, held recently at the trade hall of Robinsons Galleria. Reyes' talk was made possible by Pfizer Philippines as part of its program to encourage men to visit their doctors and seek help to improve their health.

JAPANESE ENVOY VISITS GCIC

A student of the Global City Innovative College (GCIC) warmly greets Senator Hirohiko Nakamura during his first visit to the country. The Japanese legislator surveyed the GCIC campus at the Bonifacio Global City to determine the capability of Philippine schools to train professional caregivers and nurses. Sen. Nakamura, a member of the House of Councilors of the National Diet of Japan, authored a bill that would pave the way for the entry of Filipino caregivers and nurses to Japan. GCIC, one of the two schools visited by the Japanese official, has grown into one of the most promising educational institutions in the country today and is recognized as having one of the best nursing programs with its international standards and world-class teaching facilities.



NLP SALES CONVENTION AND RECOGNITION IN DAVAO

Nippon Life Philippines recently recognized its 1st quarter top producing sales agents and managers during the company's sales convention held at the Pearl Farm Resort off the coast of Davao City. As an added treat, the 44 qualifiers and their guests were also able to have their much deserved rest and relaxation following an impressive showing of competency in handling new business and increasing sales. Accompanied by no-less than NLP president and CEO Yoshinobu Kimura and SVP for sales and marketing Shuji Omori, they enjoyed the pristine water and world-class facilities of Pearl Farm resort. Putting high premium on both its clients and staff, NLP continues to recruit and train quality agents in order to achieve its expected growth rate this year. Regular sales rallies and quarterly recognition of exceptional sales feat are just some of NLP's commitment to its agents to encourage a hundred percent performance and boost their confidence.

Search for Philippine Science High School Scholars

THE SEARCH is on for scholars of the Philippine Science High School System for SY 2006-2007. It is open to all graduating elementary students for the current school year who belong to the upper 10 percent of their graduating class as certified by their school principal, or those who have a special aptitude in science and math. Applicants must be Filipino citizens with no pending application as immigrants in any foreign country; not be more than 15 years of age by June 2006; in good health, fit to undergo a rigorous academic program; of good moral character; and should not have previously taken the PSHS National Competitive Examination (NCE).

All applicants must submit a fully accomplished application form with 4 identical recent 1x1 pictures, P75 non-refundable fee and two long window envelopes with stamps. Application forms are available in any of the PSHS campuses or DOST regional offices. For more information you may call tel. nos. 926-5701 or 924-0614 or visit the PSHS website at www.pshs.edu.ph. PSHS NCE application forms are not for sale and no reservation fee is required. Deadline for submission of application forms is on Aug. 25.

The PSHS NCE is a two-step screening process. The first screening, scheduled on Oct. 15 is the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) that consists of tests in verbal and abstract reasoning and mathematics. The second screening is the Science and Math Aptitude Test (SMAT) that consists of tests in science and mathematics scheduled on Dec. 10.

This school year, 2005 to 2006, the PSHS System has a total of 2840 scholars in eight PSHS campuses located in San Ildefonso, Ilocos Sur; Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya; Diliman, Quezon City; Goa, Camarines Sur; Palo, Leyte; Jaro, Iloilo City; Tubod, Lanao del Norte and in Tugbok, Davao City. The PSHS System is one of the agencies under the Department of Science and Technology which contributes to the expansion and development of the country's scientific and technological manpower.

East West Bank launches East-West Getaways promo

NOTHING beats the excitement of packing up and spending precious moments with family and friends, whether the vacation is out-of-town or out-of-the-country. It becomes more fun if you're heading to world-class recreational spots for free.

East West Bank, now emerging as the country's "preferred consumer bank", makes this family dream come true by kicking off the "East-West Getaways" promo, the grandest promotional campaign so far offered by the bank to its valued clients.

Ongoing from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, "East-West Getaways" allows winning depositors to spend leisure trips for four persons in Los Angeles, Florida, Gold Coast Australia, HongKong, Bangkok, China, or El Nido Palawan for free inclusive of airfare and hotel accommodation expenses. Winners have the option to convert the privilege into cash.

Depositors can join in the promo in two ways - by referring new East West Bank depositors or through opening a new account with the Bank.

Existing East West Bank corporate or individual clients who will refer new clients to open qualified deposit accounts are entitled to the raffle. Clients who refer will automatically get 20 system-generated raffle entries for every qualified referred account. The more you refer, the more chances of winning in the raffle.

Aside from getting instant raffle entries, clients will also be rewarded for their referrals through cash credits or gift certificates with partner-merchants like Suriya Spa, Urban Spa, Tips 'n Toes, and Bruno's.

If you're not yet a client of East West Bank, you too can join the promo simply by opening a savings or current account at any East West Bank branch nearest you. Every P2,000 average collected daily balance on your account is entitled to one raffle entry. The more you deposit, the more chances of winning.

In order to provide customers with more opportunities to win, East-West Getaways promo will have two (2) raffle draws, on February 1, 2006 and on August 1, 2006. Non-winning entries in the first draw can still join the 2nd draw.

Raffle prizes for the first draw include trips for 4 to the following: Los Angeles, California inclusive of 6 days/5 nights hotel accommodation; HongKong inclusive of 5 days/4 nights hotel accommodation; Bangkok; Thailand inclusive of 4 days/ 3 nights accommodation; and Miniloc Island Resort El Nido, Palawan inclusive of 3 days/2 nights accommodation.

EAST WEST Getaways
FREE!
Los Angeles, California
Orlando, Florida

For the second draw, prizes at stake include trips for 4 to Orlando, Florida with 7 days/6 nights hotel accommodation; Gold Coast, Australia with 6 days/5 nights hotel accommodation; Beijing/Shanghai, China with 5 days/4 nights hotel accommodation; and Lagen Island Resort in El Nido, Palawan with 3 days/2 nights hotel accommodation.

For inquiries on East West Getaways promo, call 888-17 or visit any East West Bank Personal Banking Center (PBC) nearest you. For provincial areas, call toll free 1-800-10-8ACCESS (1-800-10-822-2377).

A breakthrough in skin rejuvenation is here

THE BRILLIANCE Skin Rejuvenating Complex is one of the very few completely organic skin treatments in the market. It contains no industrially manufactured elements, so it assures users of its effectiveness and safety.

Brilliance's seven primary components are green tea, tea tree oil, bearberry extract, olive oil, atlantica seaweed, Vitamin E, and grapessed oil. Green tea provides a therapeutic solution to skincare by reducing stress, one of the primary causes for dull looking skin. Tea tree oil is known worldwide for its antibacterial properties that prevent pimples. Bearberry extract minimizes and decreases discolorations and pigmentation. Olive oil provides moisture to skin. Atlantica seaweed has the ability to restructure the skin's surface without any visible trace of doing so. It evens out skin tone, minimizes wrinkles and reduces pore size without the need for peeling or irritating dermatological treatments. Vitamin E, which has antio-oxidizing qualities, completes the skin treatment by providing protection from free radicals that destroy the skin with nutrients that enable it to heal faster and promotes growth of healthier skin cells.

The seven steps to beauty in just one unique and organic application-Brilliance Skin Rejuvenating Complex. Manage and stop aging and skin damage at its very source with Brilliance Skin Rejuvenating Complex. So say goodbye to daycreams, nightcreams, moisturizers and depigmenting agents. The all-in-one solution in just one bottle of Brilliance.

Brilliance Skin Rejuvenating Complex is manufactures and distributed by ECCel Organics. For more information about Brilliance please call tel. nos. 926-1594; 928-2002 or cel. no. 0917-531-0711 or email eccelorganics@yahoo.com.

Toastmasters induction at the Tower Club

TONIGHT at 6 p.m. ATM-S Noel Gonzales will be inducted and installed as the 4th president of Powerhows Toastmasters Club at the Tower Club, 33rd Floor of Philamlife Bldg., in Ayala Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas in Makati. ATM-S Noel Gonzales is the past president of Bayanihan Toastmasters Club, and an area international speech champion of Division A. To induct ATM-S Gonzales is Toastmaster International 2002-2003 director DTM Christine Temblique, while Lt. Gov. for Education and Training DTM Allan Olmilla of Cebu City will charge the officers of their duties and responsibilities. ATM-G Gina Mapua, Lt. Gov. for marketing of Makati will discharge the 2004-2006 officers of their duties. The 2005-2006 Club officers will be inducted and installed by Toastmasters International district governor ATM-G Eliza Tay of Davao City. PNP Chief Arturo Lumibao, a competent Toastmaster, will be accorded the Teodoro M. Kalaw Jr Award for Leadership.

Product FILES

Sumptuous dining options at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila

CROWNE Plaza Galleria Manila caters to your liking with delicious meals sure to suit every palate. From local fare to international cuisine, you are bound to be spoilt for choice. Global food choices are served with a twist at the contemporary Seven Corners which boasts seven unique interactive cooking stations. A top-of-the-mind restaurant featuring an innovative menus and epicurean diversity, Seven Corners is a gastronomic experience that will send your taste buds to seventh heaven. Authentic Chinese flavor is the essence of Xin Tian Di. From its house specialty - roast duck with aromatic, crisp skin complimented by succulent meat - to the Asian Noodle Bar which serves up a wide array of mouth-watering selection, Cantonese cuisine has never tasted so good. Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila is "The Place To Meet". The hotel is InterContinental Hotels Group's first Crowne Plaza and the fourth property in the Philippines. Featuring the largest convention space in the bustling commercial hub of Ortigas, the newly completed 265-guestroom hotel will be part of the Group's 215-strong Crowne Plaza brand portfolio around the world.

BSP keeps close watch on volatile forex mart

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas' new leadership may have to put in place additional measures to tame the volatile foreign exchange market amid the continuing political turbulence.

The peso yesterday threatened to break past its historic low of 56.45 to the dollar. But the BSP expressed confidence that it could weather the current political crisis and ensure the stability of the banking system.

"We are monitoring the market if there's a need to take additional measures," said Amando Tetangco Jr., newly installed BSP governor.

Tetangco did not say what the additional measures were. But money and currency dealers took it to mean further monetary tightening, either in the form of reserve requirement or overnight borrowing rates.

Tetangco also warned currency dealers not to take advantage of the current political jitters.

In a separate forum with the Chamber of Thrift Banks yesterday, BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. said that it was not the first time the BSP was facing tough challenges.

"In 1981, the central bank experienced ... the debt crisis and we survived," Espenilla said. "The challenges now are very difficult indeed but, beyond the crisis, the BSP can proceed with business as usual."

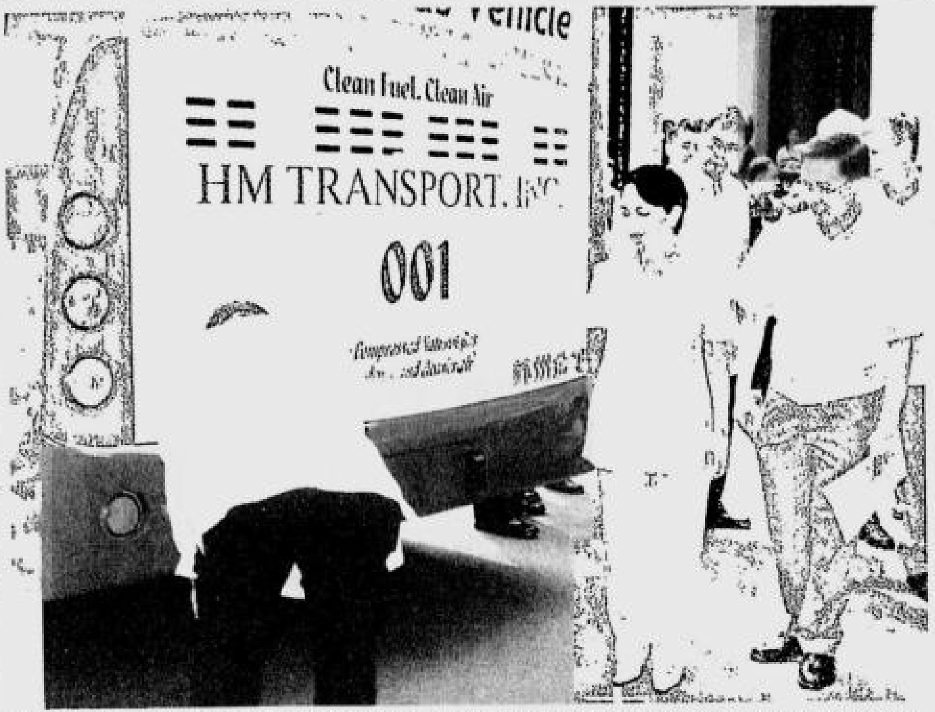
The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board on Thursday approved a 2-percentage hike in the reserve requirement to 21 percent to mop up excess liquidity that would aggravate pressures on the foreign exchange and inflation rates.

The tightening of monetary policy is complemented by the implementation of an improved hedging facility under the currency risk protection program (CRPP).

The CRPP allows eligible corporates and other foreign exchange users to purchase foreign exchange from banks at a predetermined rate in the future, thereby removing a significant amount of demand from the spot market and ease pressure on the exchange rate.

BSP Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo said that to make the availment cheaper, the CRPP rate would now be based on the BSP's overnight borrowing rate or Treasury bill rate, whichever was lower.

Before, the CRPP rate was based solely on the BSP's overnight borrowing rate.



ENERGY Secretary Raphael Lotilla (right) joins President Macapagal-Arroyo during the test run of a passenger bus that runs on compressed natural gas. The Department of Energy is trying to secure additional loans to acquire more of the fuel efficient passenger vehicles. REM ZAMORA

DOE seeks funding for more gas-run buses

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy hopes to secure additional loans to acquire more passenger buses that run on compressed natural gas.

Last week, 200 CNG buses arrived in the country. The DOE wants to raise the total number of CNG buses to 2,000.

Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya on Monday will leave for Washington DC to secure no-collateral loans at "soft rates." The fund is going to be used to acquire the CNG units.

According to Abaya, the first batch of CNG-fueled buses came from China.

The Philippines now wants to acquire buses that are made in the United States, he added.

Abaya also said the project financing should also be applicable for the entire renewable energy projects of the country.

The acquisition of the first 200 CNG buses was made possible through the government's Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT), a seven-year program that would gradually replace diesel-fired buses with ones that run on CNG.

The CNG price is half that of the prevailing diesel price at P14.52 per cubic meter, equivalent to a liter of diesel.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the DOE to start another round of negotiations with members of the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project to increase the number of CNG units on the road.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said more CNG buses would be arriving in the coming days. *Abigail L. Ho*

June auto sales jumped 15% on EVAT fears

By Ronnel W. Domingo

VEHICLE sales jumped 15.4 percent to a total of 9,310 units in June from 8,069 in May due to the expanded value-added tax's anticipated impact on prices.

In a joint report, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines and the Truck Manufacturers Association yesterday said that the introduction of new models and aggressive marketing continued to drive up sales as figures for the first half showed a growth rate of 13.3 percent.

Campi and TMA said they sold a total of 47,624 units from January to June compared to the 42,032 units sold in the same period last year.

The number of units sold in the first six months account for half of the local industry's sales forecast of 95,000 units for the entire year.

The assemblers said overall sales were expected to be maintained in the coming months.

Also, Campi and TMA said passenger car sales went up by 11.5 percent in the first half to 17,664 units from 15,842 units in the same period last year.

January to June sales of commercial vehicles—Asian utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, light trucks, buses and trucks—fared better with an increase of 18.1 percent to 29,960 units from 25,376 units.

In the first half, AUV sales shot up by 29 percent to 13,720 units; LCV sales went up by 4 percent to 15,074 units; and sales of light trucks increased 17 percent to 921 units.

Sales of trucks and buses slid by 9 percent to 245 from 268 units.

Toyota Motors Philippines Corp. cornered the largest portion of the overall market, with a 34.7-percent share. Toyota sold 16,803 units in the first six months or 15.1 percent higher than the 14,595 units it sold in the same period last year.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. ranked second with 14.1 percent of the market. MMPC sold 7,083 vehicles, which was 19.3 percent higher than the previous level of 5,938 units.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. ranked third with a 13.7-percent share of the market. Honda sales reached 4,862 units in the first six months, which was 15.4 percent lower than the 5,746 units it sold in the same period last year.

Amended law on ecozone perks pushed

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry said it was working closely with Congress to ensure investment perks for locators in the Clark, Camp John Hay, Morong and Poro Point economic zones after the Supreme Court voided earlier incentives.

DTI officials said in a statement that the move came after local and foreign business sectors sought the House of Representatives' help in reinstating the incentives, which were a key factor in their decision to invest in the ecozones.

In a ruling dated March 29, 2005, the high court declared as unconstitutional a provision of Presidential Proclamation No. 420 that grants tax exemptions and financial incentives to the John Hay Special Economic Zone similar to those enjoyed in the Subic SEZ under the Bases Conversion Development Act of 1992 or Republic Act 7227.

The ruling also said the perks were exclusive to the Subic ecozone.

"The expansion of capital investments, introduction of cutting-edge technology and generation of quality employment are not only being realized in Subic," the DTI said.

"The country is reaping the same benefits from the other ecozones, so incentives should be extended to firms operating in ecozones outside Subic," the agency added.

Ronnel W. Domingo

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SKYTRAX Airline of the year

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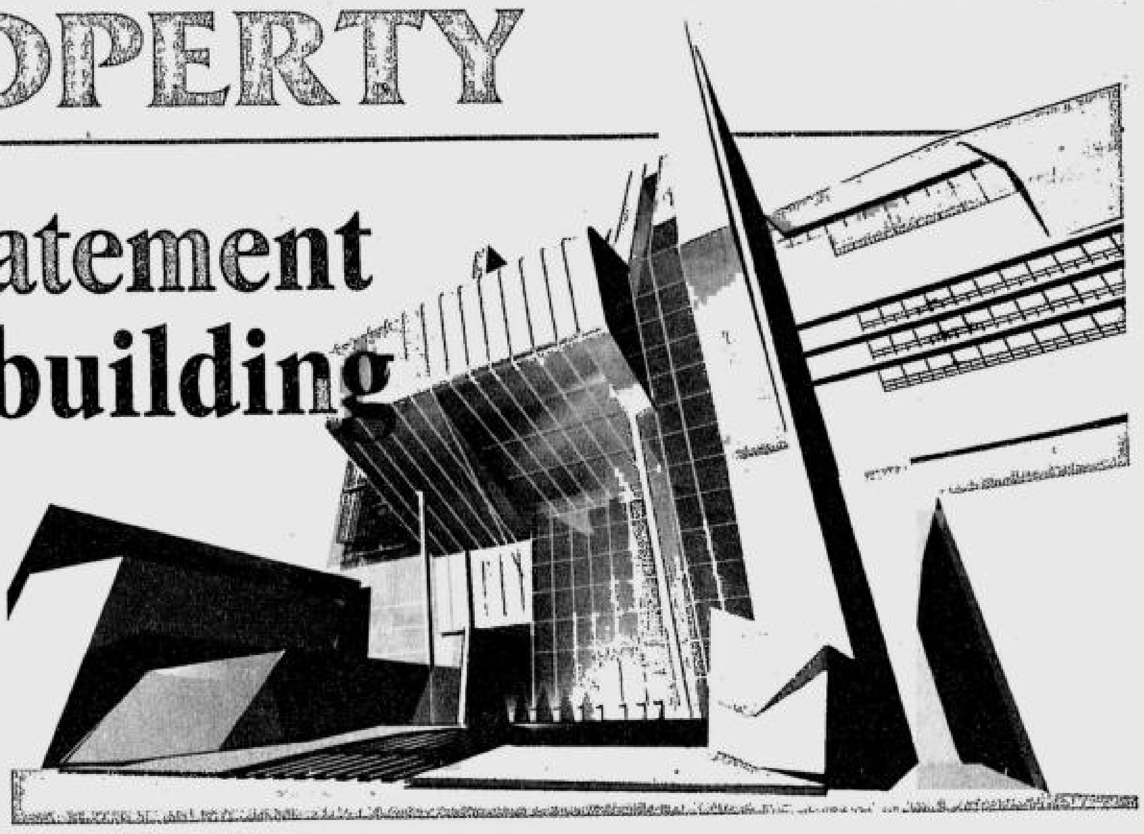
Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

PROPERTY

Making a bold statement with design, arts building



PUSHING the limits of design, architect Calma came out with a building concept that is both unique and very modern.

By Charles E. Buban

WHEN COMMISSIONED to design the P1.2-billion De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde School of Design and Arts building on P. Ocampo Street in Malate, Manila, the architectural design firm Lor Calma Design Inc. had two goals. One is to celebrate the modern architecture/old city landscape duality of the site and the other is to create a bold statement about the future of art in the country.

Lor Calma architect and interior designer Ed Calma believes that for a design and art school, one needs to come up with a building that will attract the best and brightest faculty and students, provide interactive learning environments, well-designed and flexible facilities to accommodate ever-evolving technologies.

"We're trying to come up with a new approach to respond to current needs, and we do it creatively," Calma says.

Major landmark

The 14-story structure—set back 25 meters to create space at the entrance—occupies 50,000 square meters of space and promises to be a major landmark in Manila once completed in 2006.

De La Salle University System in the Philippines president Brother Armin Luistro, FSC, says the building will boast of the first contemporary art museum in the country and its spacious, open-air corridors will be wide enough to double as exhibition spaces.

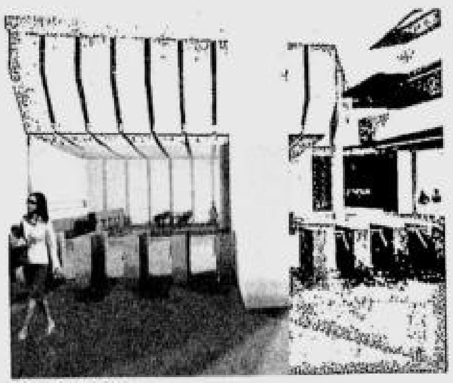
The building will also feature a theater cantilevered four stories above the ground while the walls of every classroom are tilted so they will respond better to sound.

Breathe art

"The design of the building itself should breathe art. The very environment should encourage people to think art, appreciate art and showcase the talent of the Filipinos. We hope to achieve these once we open next year," Brother Luistro explains.

He relates that the building is one of De La Salle's most ambitious projects.

"We would really like to put a priority on our design and arts program. We are aware of the Filipino's natural talent but very few of them are able to avail of programs locally that will professionalize or further hone their skills. This is one of this college's important directions," Brother Luistro says.



MAIN lobby

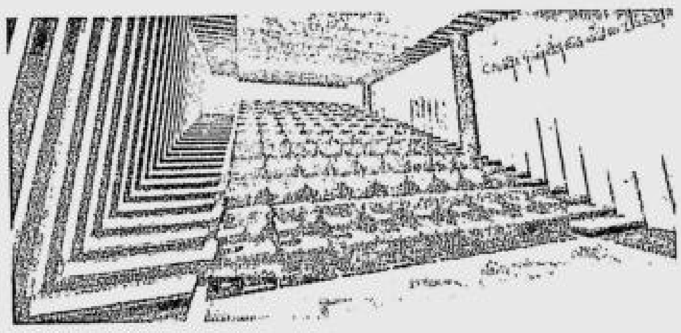
Not typical

This is not a typical building, says Calma. "It's an avant garde building that showcases a design that's never been done before."

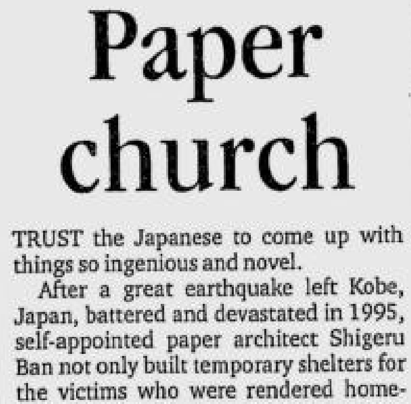
He relates that the building will feature louvers which, when illuminated at night, will appear like lanterns.

"Considering the location, these lighting effects would definitely set this building apart from its surroundings," Calma promises.

He assures that the building would be a fitting home to one of the college's more popular schools that will now offer nine programs, namely: industrial design, interior design, fashion design and merchandising, technical, theater, production design, dance, arts management, multimedia arts and music production.



SEMINAR area



THE PAPER Church at Kobe, Japan

Paper church

AMAZING STRUCTURES

TRUST the Japanese to come up with things so ingenious and novel.

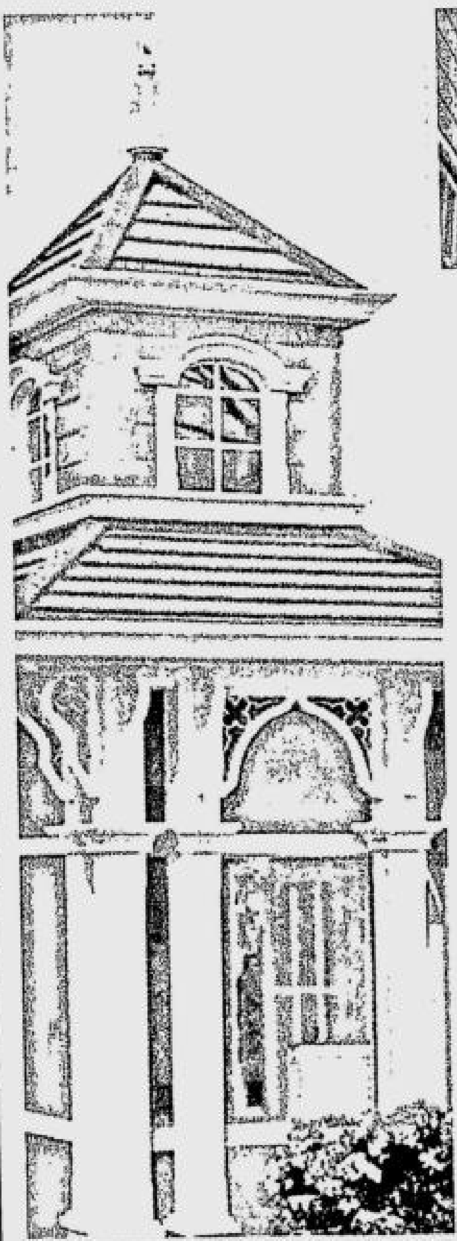
After a great earthquake left Kobe, Japan, battered and devastated in 1995, self-appointed paper architect Shigeru Ban not only built temporary shelters for the victims who were rendered homeless, he replaced the burned down Takaitori church as well.

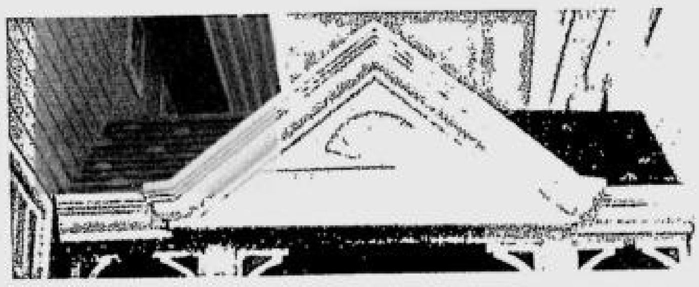
Using 58 paper tubes 5 meters in height and 330 millimeters in diameter, the environment-conscious architect created an elliptical community hall now known as the Paper Church.

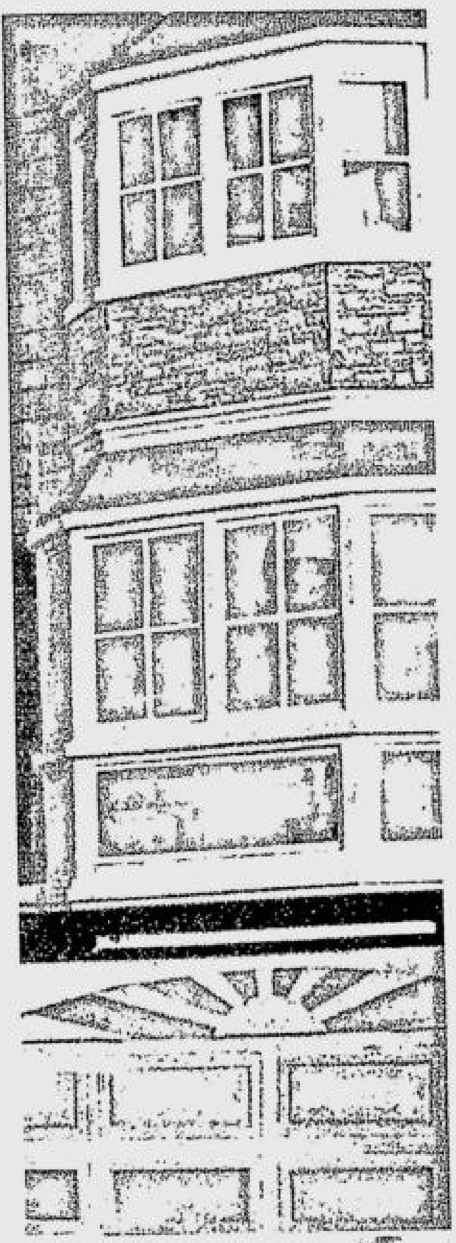
Clear plastic louvers encloses the oval-shaped structure while a white, Teflon-coated fabric serves as canopy. The paper tubes are made from laminated recycled paper with a thickness of 15 millimeters.

The low-cost, easy-to-assemble structure was constructed in such a way so that volunteers could easily provide a place of worship for the victims of the earthquake.

Dianne M. Villafuerte







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look around.

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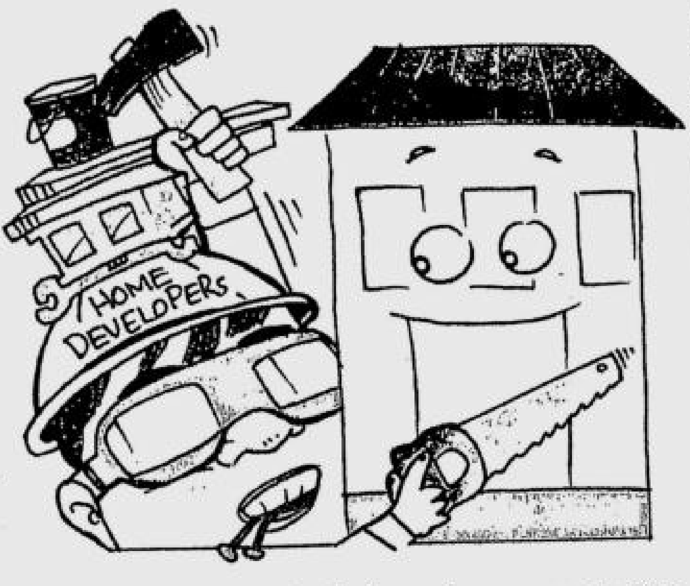
To get to Victorianne: Head south on South Luzon Expressway. Exit at Sucat interchange and turn left. Turn left again at East Service Road. The Brittany Bay entrance is immediately to the right.

Brittany
CORPORATION

Victorianne
at La Posada

Amid crisis, home developers assure continued delivery of projects

By Charles E. Buban



A MAJOR group of home developers recently assure Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Noli de Castro that they will continue to deliver their promised number of housing units despite the ongoing crisis that not only increased the cost of construction but raised the price of raw materials as well.

The commitment was made by the newly elected officers of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association who recently met with the Vice President at the Mandarin Hotel in Makati City.

"Our members appreciate HUDCC's recent initiatives that helped sustain the momentum to propel housing construction on high gear despite the crisis that could have hampered the delivery of housing projects," says SHDA national president Willie Uy.

HUDCC initiatives

Uy enumerates several HUDCC initiatives that include the recent adjustment of the socialized housing price ceiling to P300,000 that ensured the continuous production and increased supply of affordable quality housing for the country's formal low-income households, even as the industry is reeling from the soaring prices of cement and steel.

In the past years, HUDCC has also been responsible in the legislative enactment of Executive Order 45 that expedites the processing of permits and licenses and other requirements for housing constructions, and more incentives for private sector participation in housing development.

SHDA chair Marilu Alferez also lauds De Castro's timely intervention on the government's efforts to support a more viable condition for private sector to participate in the National Shelter Program.

Having the option

"Developers now have the option for which to satisfy the provisions of RA 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act, through the purchase of housing bonds. Funds to be generated may help fill the funding needs of the low-end sector for housing and will surely generate additional employment and economic activities," Alferez explained.

De Castro on his part urged SHDA members to continue playing the lead role in ensuring adequate housing supply, especially to households that are qualified for social housing—informal settlers, homeless and income poor or the bottom 30 percent of the population.

"We need to produce some 700,000 new housing units annually just to satisfy the country's burgeoning need. The government alone will not be able to address and we need the active participation and support of the private sector," De Castro said.

Increasing housing projects

To achieve this, Uy said SHDA leadership must increase the number of housing developments in the provinces by seeking the active participation of its regional chapters.

"SHDA has chapters in the cities of Cebu, Davao, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Lucena and Zamboanga, but these six may not be enough. To push more housing development in the provinces, SHDA might need to establish more regional offices," suggests Uy.

At present SHDA is composed 400 members belonging to the country's top 400 real estate developers.

Creba Expo for home buyers, homeowners

FOR HOME buyers and homeowners. That's how the Creba Expo 2005 with the theme "Our World under One Roof" is especially designed.

Set on July 27-30 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, the expo will not only exhibit real estate property for home buyers looking for affordable houses and best financing schemes, but also offer experts' tips on how homeowners can improve, beautify their homes or even resort to feng shui for peace of mind.

This was announced by Rosemarie C. Basa, expo chair and executive vice president of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba). It is envisioned as the biggest and most creative presentation of real estate products.

Free seminars

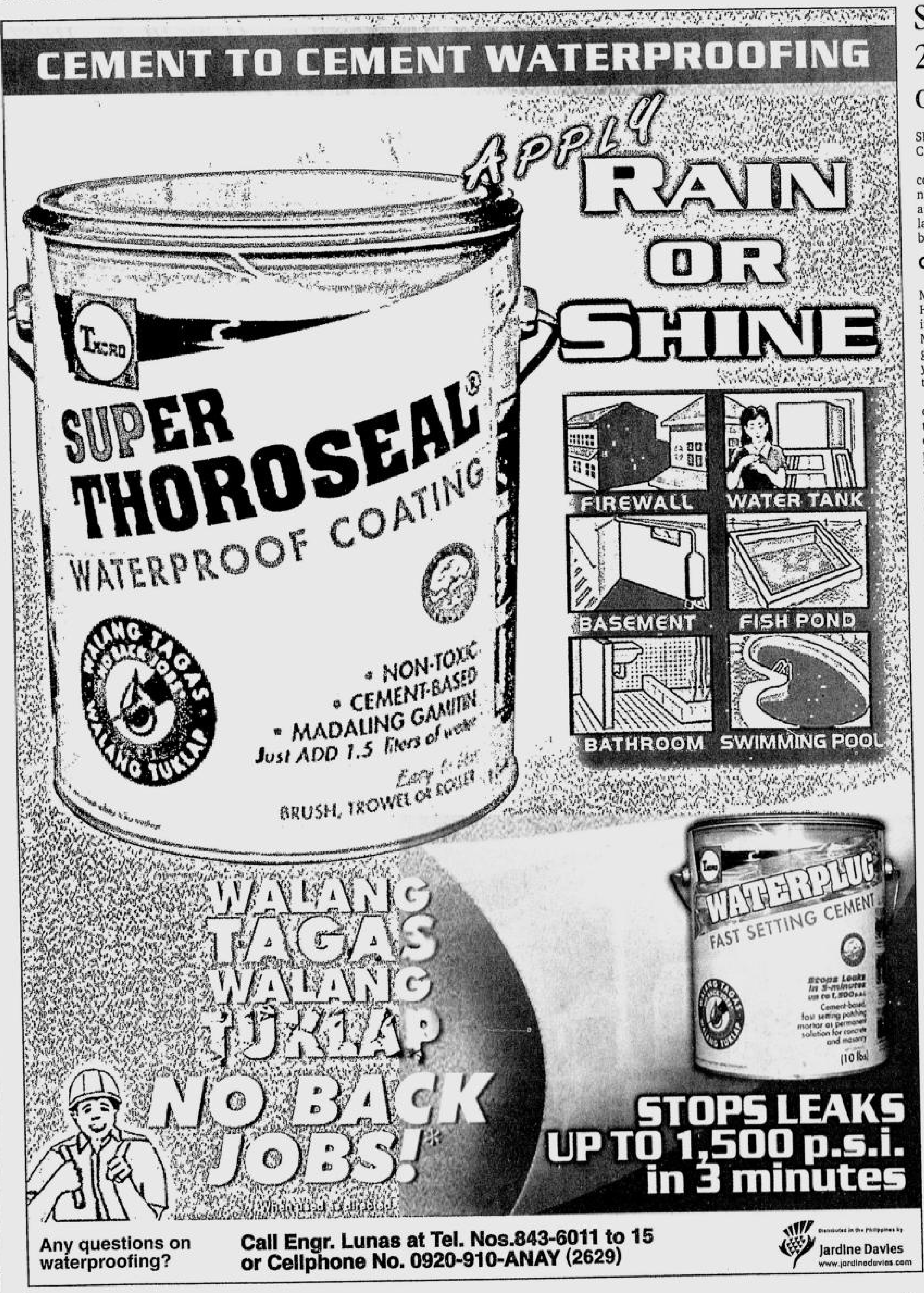
Techie P. Bautista, expo workshop director, listed the schedule of free public seminars:

- July 27—How to apply for Pag-Ibig Fund membership and housing loans and restructure delinquent loans.
- July 28—Feng shui, new landscaping ideas, detecting fake land titles, documenting titles, land sales and transfers and replacing lost, damaged and defective titles.
- July 29—House design and layout, how to compute cost of labor and materials in house construction; real estate taxation, land valuation and appraisal, and how to avail of housing loans with banks.
- July 30—Interior design, including color schemes, furniture arrangements and pointers on well-planned and functional homes, gardening and landscaping; income opportunities in real estate selling; how to become a licensed real estate broker, and opportunities in the global market.

Supporters

Among the supporting organizations are the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Philippine Exporters Confederation of the Philippines, and United Filipino Seafarers, Movie Workers Welfare Foundation, Filipino Overseas Sandigan Club (Hong Kong-based), Akbay Pinoy, Kakampi, and Kapisanan ng Mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP).

Expo sponsors are Boysen Paints, Davies Paints, Emerald PVC Pipes, Berde Plants Inc., CICG Trade International Corp., Cypress-Bomanite, Metts Plants Arts, MGS Corp., R-II Builders, Vazbuilt, Aero-Med Ambulance Transport, BCS Systems & Technologies Inc./Vantage, Café Puro Jade Blend, D.B. International Sales & Services Inc./Team Asia, Fundador Gold Reserve, Next Mobile Inc./Imex, Novellino/Growers, Powerbooks Specialty Store and Taytan International Corp.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SM Prime opens 20th supermall on July 15

SM PRIME will open its 20th supermall, SM City San Lazaro, to the public on July 15.

Located at the four-hectare property at the corner of AH Lacson Street (formerly Governor Forbes Avenue) and Felix Huertas Street at the northeastern section of the city of Manila, the new mall's site is both historic and bustling.

Convenient location

On one hand, it is located in the former Manila Jockey Club area of the San Lazaro Hippodrome. One of the country's oldest racing clubs and the first in Southeast Asia, the Manila Jockey Club was formed in 1867 by a group of sportsmen led by Jose se la Gandara y Navarro, the Spanish governor general of the Philippines.

The MJC has evolved over the years to become the premier place for horse racing enthusiasts, is now being prepared for its development into a mixed-use commercial complex, part of which will be SM City San Lazaro.

The area is also a short ride from some of the busiest sections of Manila—the university belt, downtown and Chinatown. It is conveniently located beside LRT stations in Tayuman and Blumentritt, near major schools like the University of Santo Tomas and Far Eastern University, as well as commercial and residential establishments in the three areas.

Customer convenience

The four-level mall will have 177,000 square meters in great shopping, leisure and entertainment space. SM mainstays like the SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, the SM Food Court and the SM Cinema, which will have six state of the art screens.

SM City San Lazaro will have fashion boutiques, jewelry stores, home stores, book stores and novelty shops as well as well-known international and local food chains and specialty restaurants. It will also have service outlets as well as computer stores, telecom centers and Internet cafés for the cyber generation.

For customer convenience, SM City San Lazaro will have six levels of parking with 1,095 slot and an additional level for future expansion. The mall's innovative architectural design will be a big attraction for customers—an Exterior Interior Finishing System with a stucco finish in the façade, plus a series of photo billboards and banners.

SM City San Lazaro was designed by Jose Siao Ling and Associates with architect Junaito Yan as design consultant. DA Abcede and Associates is its project manager while New Golden City Builders is its general contractor.

THIS 20th SM Supermall will be open to the public on Friday.

The complete destination

A CHOICE has been made early on: Ayala Westgrove Heights will be an upscale neighborhood providing for the needs of a sustainable community. A family can comfortably settle in this secluded subdivision while finding everything they need to be just around the vicinity if not within. And now this is an evolving reality from the existing amenities of clubhouses to the future retail and sports centers and a church.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

My firm was introduced to the project when we were asked to design the Kidsgrove Clubhouse. Four years later, we were tapped to continue building the community by designing the Retail Center, Sports' Center and Westgrove Church.

Retail center

Upon ascending to this hilltop in Silang, Cavite, one is welcomed by the nearly completed Retail Center which provides a key opportunity for investors. A bank, a drug store and a coffee shop are now setting up for full operation.

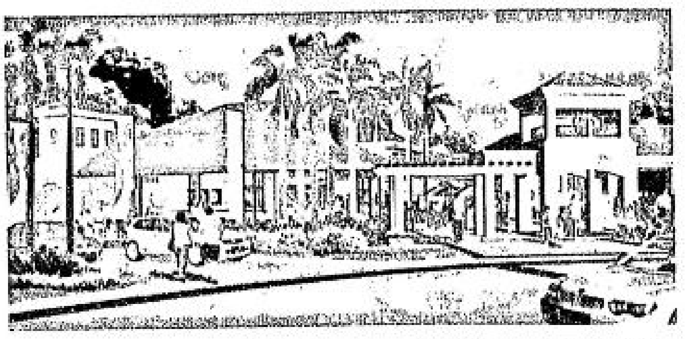
The Retail Center will cater to the growing community with more than 75 homes now rising from over 1,500 lots sold since its launch in 1998. Adjacent to the Retail Center is the future church which has been becoming a primary demand in every residential subdivision.

From this point of arrival and toward the entry through the gate with guardhouse, the visitor is introduced to the Mediterranean theme of the development. This architecture is rising amid the Mango Orchard, substantially preserved with thousands of mango trees scattered all over the community and with much respect to the site's sprawling and rolling terrain.

Unlike the metro-oriented development where density defines the lines, Westgrove boasts of having more than 50 percent of open space providing the residents more opportunities for family and community get-togethers such as in the six-hectare central park and a tour at the Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary. Decentralization of development from the now congested cities proves that there are vast and sweeping expanses of land awaiting to nestle a rising community.

Design consideration

In a walk-through inside the development by master plan consultant Helber, Hastert and Young (Hawaii and Singapore), one is lulled by the ride along the rolling terrain blanketed with mango trees. Then one reaches the Main Clubhouse with indoor facilities of a social hall with four smaller activity rooms, gym, game rooms, table tennis area, kiddie play area and surrounded by outdoor basketball and tennis courts, swimming pools with jacuzzi. Not far from this is the Kidsgrove Clubhouse with junior sized basketball court, kiddie wet and dry play area, kiddie pool and indoor toddler room.



THE RETAIL Center will house a bank, a drug store and a coffee shop. It will cater to the growing community with more than 75 homes now rising from over 1,500 lots sold since its launch in 1988.

Site development works had been mobilized to pave the way for the Sports Center. The complex provides covered tennis, basketball and badminton courts, kids play area, game rooms, social hall and activity areas. These were planned adapting the design consideration of both independence and interdependence of small structures which allows maximization of open space and the user's uninterrupted contact with the picturesque surroundings.

A day in Westgrove offers an array of educational, leisure and recreation facilities both for young and old alike. Name it and you'll find it! Amenities cater to everyone. It would not be surprising then if days, weeks and months will pass without having to descend from this hilltop. A family moves in, settles and grows enclaved in this complete destination which now becomes a new home.

For your inquiries, you may get in touch with Ayala Land Inc. through 728-7000 or your may log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph or e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

For your feedback, e-mail the author at arkinet@email.com.ph

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Strip malls flourish amid mall boom

AS SHOPPING malls become bigger and more pervasive in Metro Manila and other urban centers in the Philippines, their pocket-sized siblings, strip malls such as the Blue Wave at Metropolitan Park of property giant Federal Land Inc. (FedLand), have flourished because of the growing trend for "niche retailing."

FedLand president Edward Tan said that over the last 30 years strip malls have shown that they could thrive even if located side by side with big shopping malls because they cater to a different and more demanding client base and they attract cost-conscious retailers.

Different market

"Strip malls serve a different and more specific market. While giant malls cater to a broad range of classes, strip malls appeal mostly to upwardly mobile people who know where they want to eat or what to buy but do not want to get bogged down by an enclosed environment, the lack of parking space, narrow access routes and crowded lobbies," Tan said.

"Retailers also like strip malls for their cost-effectiveness—low overhead costs especially for air-conditioning and maintenance; and longer operating hours," he added.

Property consultant Colliers International, in its Philippine quarterly research report released last month, noted the rising trend of "niche retail" formats among developers.

"New retail developments in Metro Manila appear to be on a smaller scale with a focus on district centers (25,000 to 50,000 square meters) and neighborhood retail (less than 25,000 sq m)," said Colliers which cited FedLand's Blue Wave at the Marquinton among the "notable" new strip mall projects.

Tan noted that Blue Wave at the Metropolitan Park served as a catalyst of retail and leisure activity along the south-bound Roxas Boulevard area with a handful of strip malls cropping up in adjacent areas in the last two years and country's biggest mall (SM Mall of Asia) scheduled for completion later this year.

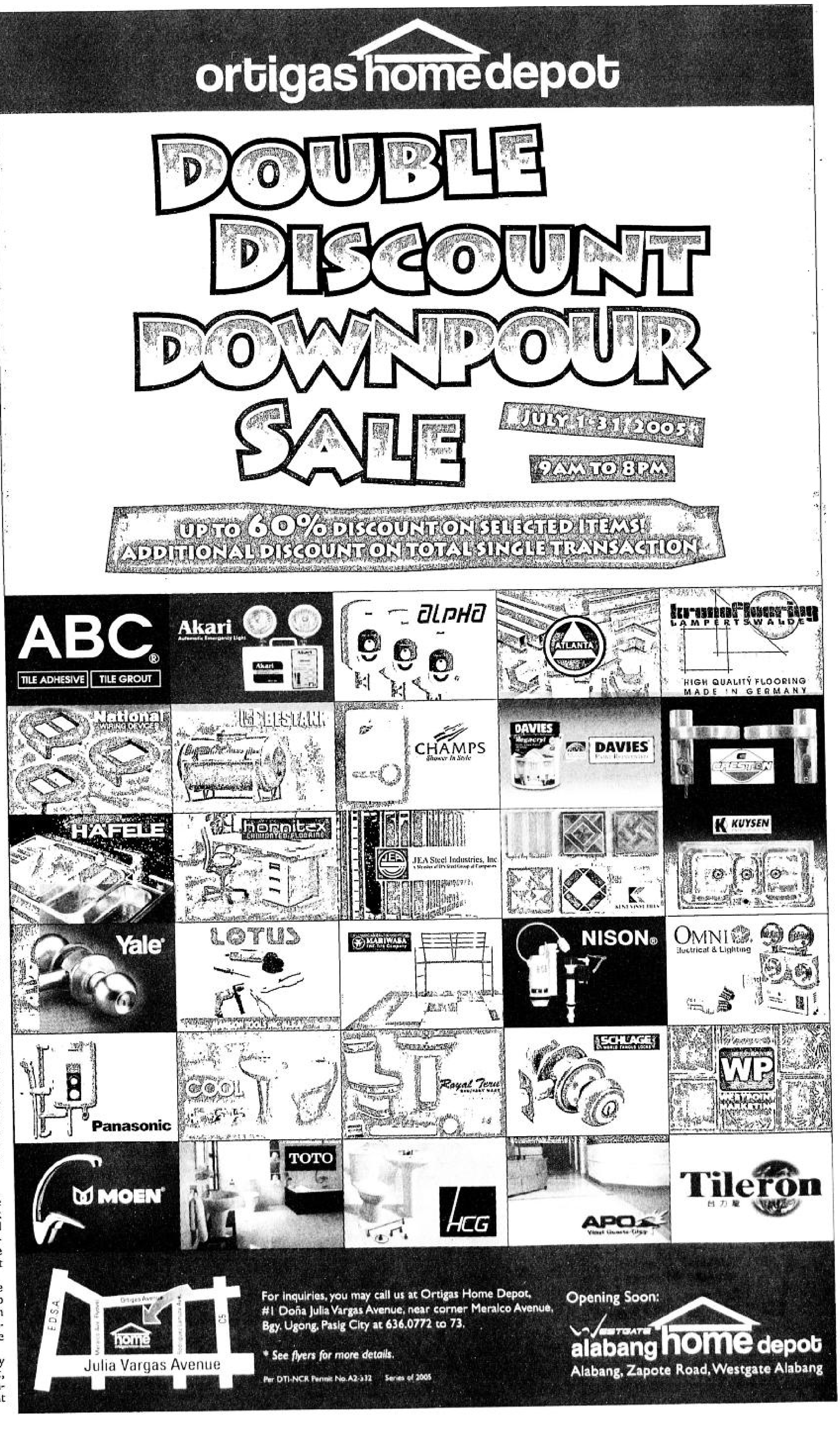
Since its opening in 2002, Tan said the Blue Wave has built a steady and growing base of retailers and clients that make the California-style strip mall their hang-out or stopover along the bay.

Attractive destination

Tan said Blue Wave's prime location, at the heart of the mixed-use Metropolitan Park complex on Roxas Boulevard and Edsa, and wide open parking spaces have made it an attractive destination for residents and office staff not only in Manila and Pasay City but even as far as Binondo and Parañaque City.

Tan said Blue Wave stood out among the strip malls because it was one of the few strip malls that have remained true to its American concept (a row of stores anchored on a gasoline station) while giving customers a unique shopping and dining experience.

"People come here because they enjoy shopping in a spacious and airy environment, feeling the bay breeze in their faces and dining al fresco under the stars. You can't get that anywhere but here," Tan said.



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Quality living made even sweeter. That's exactly what you'll get living in Residenza. This prime property by Crown Asia is situated at the booming community of Bacoor, Cavite - after the Coastal Road exit. It offers bigger houses and lot cuts inspired by the architectural genre of Lombardy region rich in distinctive Italian and Spanish influences.

Lombardy Region as the Inspiration

For more than a century, the Spanish occupied and dominated most parts of Northern and Central Italy including the region of Lombardy, the gateway to Europe and the business center of Northern Italy. A mixture of culture sprang from their influence resulting in a contrasting combination of elements - the baroque architecture.

This is the inspiration that made Residenza stand out, a home that will bring you to a totally different dimension. Occupant-ready community that form a part of a vision to create a cluster of Italian villages right in the heart of Cavite.

Strategic Location

While Residenza is a different world from outside its perimeter fence, it is accessible to nearby establishments and educational institutions and viable to all points of destinations such as Manila prime Universities and Makati Business District.

Its strategic location provides accessibility to four key exits: the Coastal Road, Alabang-Zapote Road, Molino Road, and Aguinaldo Highway.

Another accessible exit, which will open soon, is the Molino-Paliparan road, a gateway towards Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall all the way to South Luzon Expressway.

Italian-Inspired Homes Await

Homes inspired by the masterful craft of Italian architecture are waiting for you at Residenza. It offers a minimum lot area of 180 square meters to a generous 315 square meters. Model homes feature two and three distinctive floor plans with spacious living room, lanai, dining, and other family-centered areas.

Part of the unit package options are **Pearl, Sapphire, Emerald and Ruby of Crown Jewels** perfect for start up family. While **Francesca, Alessandria, and Romagna** have distinctive floor plans that can accommodate growing families with more room to spare.

Whatever you choose, your home at Residenza is a guaranteed investment for a lifetime of abundant peace and luxury.

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Functional and fully developed by its structure of high-end facilities and amenities, it provides a clear picture of homey atmosphere and comfortable living.

Functional and available, it has wide open spaces built over an underground storm drainage system, wide roads and gutters. Mercury lamps are also placed to light your path if you decide to stroll at night for a breath of air brought about by the natural landscape of trees surrounding the whole vicinity.

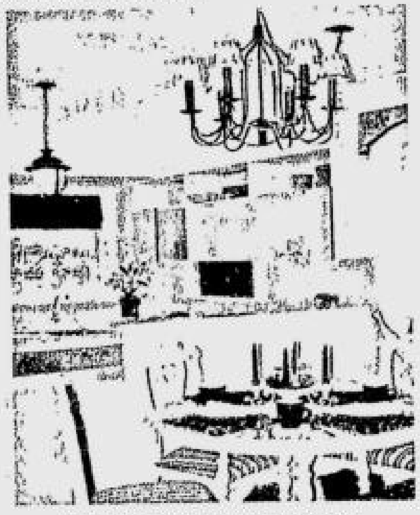
Feel secure and protected. The perimeter fence and round-the-clock security personnel assures your safety.

If you are a sports buff, or simply in need to trim down a few bumps, tennis / basketball court is available anytime of the day. There are picnic parks and safe playgrounds for your children to while away their time. And after a hard day of sweating it out, the swimming pool's clear and cool water will refresh and rejuvenate your senses.

High Five

Crown Asia's principle of creating not only a decent home, but of providing a homey atmosphere is reflected in its five values. Security within and outside your home, comfort amid an elegantly styled home made just for you, freedom of choice according to your taste, serenity brought to you by the green landscape and attainability for a luxurious yet affordable home.

At Residenza, your search is over. Wide roads are paved, multi-purpose clubhouse is up and landscaped park is as green as ever. All is set, leaving you with nothing to worry about. Move in to Residenza today and avail the easy-payment options.



To know more about Residenza,
contact Crown Asia at
Tel. Nos. 873-1614 / 871-3882.

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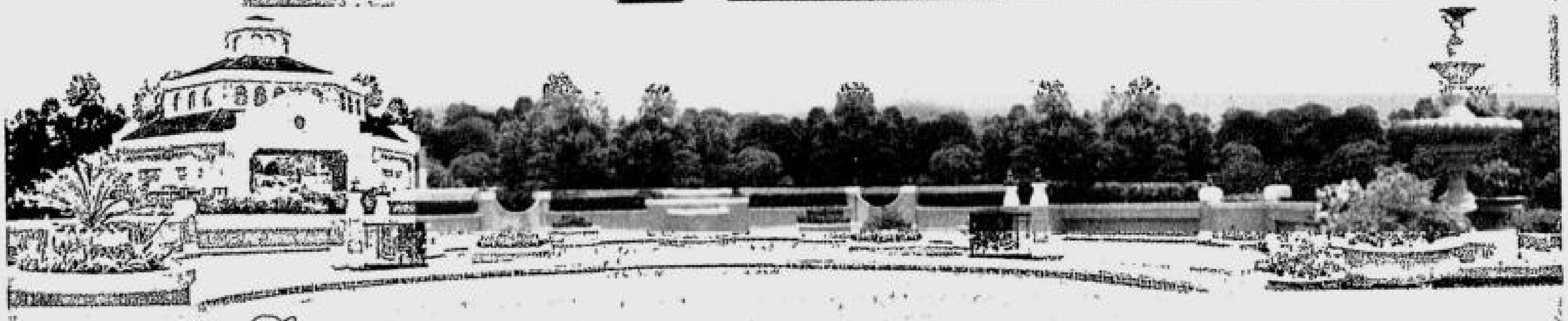

Live a complete life at Residenza and feel the comfort of a home all set to suit your lifestyle. Go for an invigorating swim at daybreak. Have a sumptuous lunch at the picnic grounds. Catch up on your workout in the afternoon at the multipurpose clubhouse. And as the sun quietly fades away, casting crimson over wide-open spaces of verdant landscape, it's such a fulfillment to end the day inside an Italian-inspired home. At Residenza, everything is up and ready longing for your arrival.

Residenza is strategically located at the flourishing community of Bacoor, Cavite - right after Coastal Road exit. It offers bigger houses and lot cuts inspired by the distinctive Italian and Spanish influences of the Lombardy region. For more information, call Crown Asia at 873-1614 / 871-3882 or visit www.crownasia.com.

Crown Asia
Your home of choice

How to get to Residenza:

From Coastal Road- Turn right to Jollibee Kalinisan then make another right to Barangay Aniban and you're all set to experience Cavite's exclusive oasis.

From Alabang- Go straight to Alabang Zapote Road. Upon reaching Aguinaldo highway, turn left. Enter Barangay Aniban and arrive at the newest haven.

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2005

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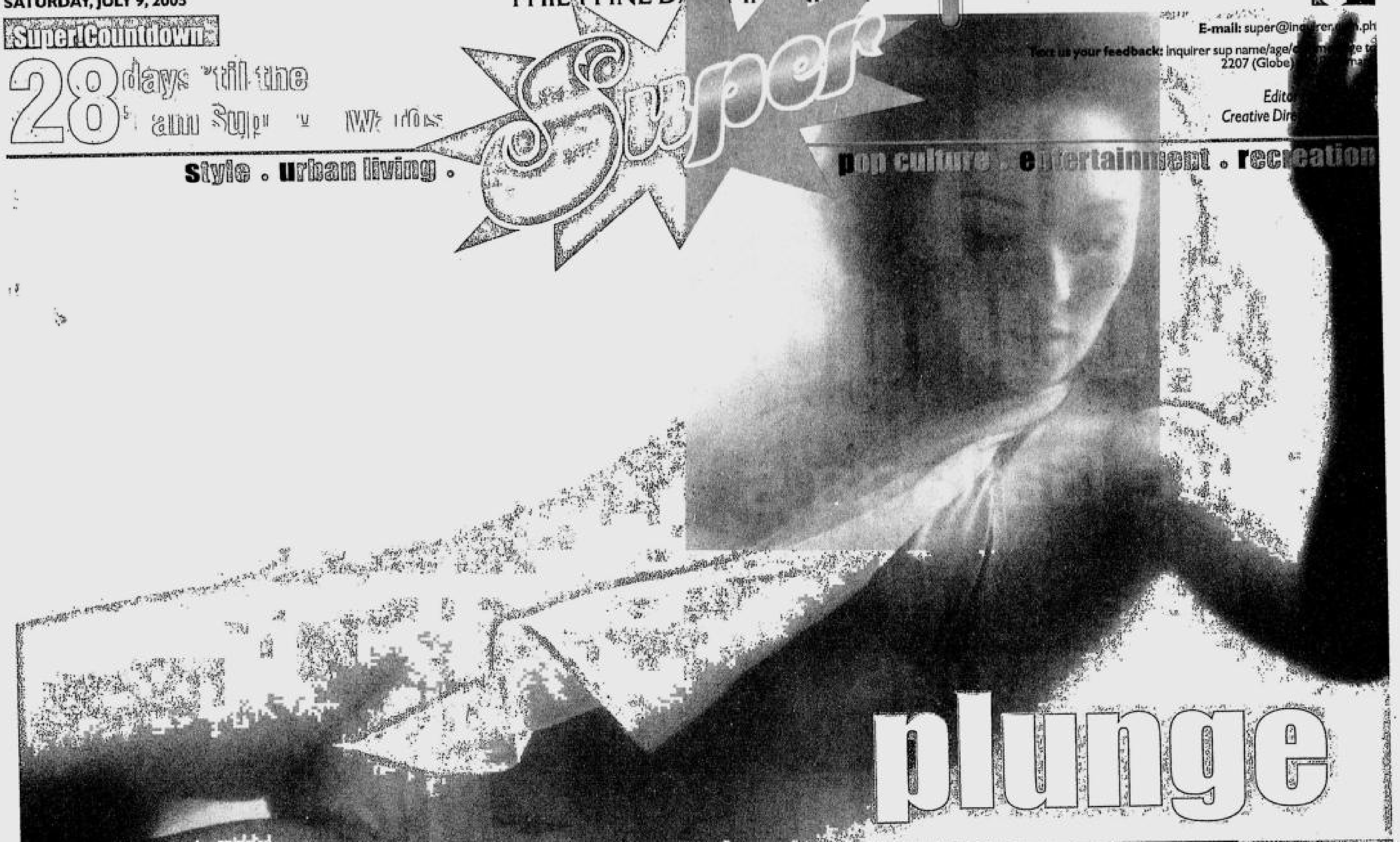

Part two of Super! Pinoy Blonde special page C2

Paris and Nicole vs Beavis and Butt-head page D1

Athena Prieto-Valdes' fairy-filled fantasy page D4

What to do when you get an angst attack page D2

Photography XANDER ANGELES
Makeup by LOWELL BUENAVENTURA
Cover Star JACKIE MITCHEL
Risque Swimwear

24/7 SUPER! EVENT GUIDE

Rainy day rendezvous

By Janine Cuenca-Dario and Paolo R. Reyes

WHEN it rains, it pours. And the coming week, with its onslaught of enticing events, is certainly no exception. From film festival openings to a fashion show flaunting Filipino design to the much-awaited arrival of an award-winning fantasy author, the next few days will truly be a feast for every famished culture vulture.

Neil Gaiman in Manila, 3:00 p.m. today

Fantasy author Neil Gaiman, the award-winning creator of the comic series, The Sandman, will conduct public readings and autograph-signing sessions today at 3:00 p.m. at the Rockwell Tent, Rockwell Center, Makati. Ticket stubs will be given out as early as 10:30 a.m. He will also be at Fully Booked branches in Greenhills (July 10, 2:00 p.m.) and Gateway (July 11, 4:00 p.m.). Call the Neil Gaiman Hotline at 898-0283 or visit www.neilgaimanphilippines.tk.

Italian Film Festival: 100 Steps, July 12

The ongoing Italian Film Festival will screen I Cento passi (100 Steps), the true story of a left-wing activist who denounces his uncle's mafia crimes, on Tuesday, July 12. 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the CCP Dream Theater, Roxas Blvd., Pasay. In Italian with English subtitles. Admission is free. Call 832-1125 loc. 1704.

Cinemalaya 2005, July 12-17

Tuesday, July 12, is the opening of Cinemalaya 2005: The Philippine Independent Film Festival. Catch new and cutting edge digital films by the country's most exciting filmmakers at the CCP, Roxas Blvd., Pasay. The film festival runs until July 17. For screening schedules, call 832-1125 loc. 1704/1705 or visit www.culturalcenter.gov.ph/film-cinemalaya.

NBK@Mezze, July 13 & 15

NBK launches two new hot events this week at the newly-opened Mezze [G/F Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati, phone: 728-8895]. Every Wednesday at 10:00 p.m., it's Retro Nights with DJ Boyet Almazan playing disco tracks from the 80s and 90s. Every Friday at 10:00 p.m., catch HouSessions featuring top DJ, Manolet Dario, as he spins the very best in house music.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, July 15

On Friday, July 15, The British Council will showcase the talents of two UK-trained Filipino designers in A Midsummer Night's Dream. The fashion show will feature the new collection of Gian Romano. The show will be held back to back with a static exhibition of designs by Lesley Mobo. 7:00 p.m. at the Shangri-la Plaza Mall Grand Atrium. Call 914-1011 to 14.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for next week's interesting events: On July 16, Iluminati Fashion Party "Only Angels Go to Heaven" at the Fluid Lounge in M. Orosa, Malate and on July 18, Greater Love Benefit Concert at the Rockwell Tent with Paolo Santos, Side A, Nina and others. Call 886-7869.

Other 24/7 Super! events this week:

July 9, Saturday

Pelikula@TitusBrandsma at Titus Brandsma Center; Beauty and the Beast at Meralco Theater; Dance Deluxe at Embassy; Patch and Paolo Abaya at Absinth; Dip N' Drop at V Bar; Arriba at Café Havana Malate; Authority and Tribe of Levi at Ratsky's Morato

July 10, Sunday

Indian Curry Buffet at Spices, Peninsula Manila

July 11, Monday

Soul Seduction with Kate Torralba at Absinth; Acoustic Soul with Release at Temple; Sitar Nights with Joey Valenciano at Bollywood; Zyncxation at Suburbia;

July 12, Tuesday

Italian Film Festival's A Hundred Steps at CCP Dream Theater

July 13, Wednesday

Come As You Are: 90s Music at Absinth; Sing India Band at Bollywood; Way Back Wednesdays at Bed

July 14, Thursday

Beauty and the Beast at Meralco Theater; SPIT at Mag:net Café Katipunan; Chocolate Milk at Government; Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Malate; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar

July 15, Friday

Musik at Embassy; Future Lounge at Halo; Beauty and the Beast at Meralco Theater; Johnny Alegre Affinity at Eastwood City Walk; DJ Scratch-Mark at Prince of Jaipur; Route 70 at Merk's

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. E-mail your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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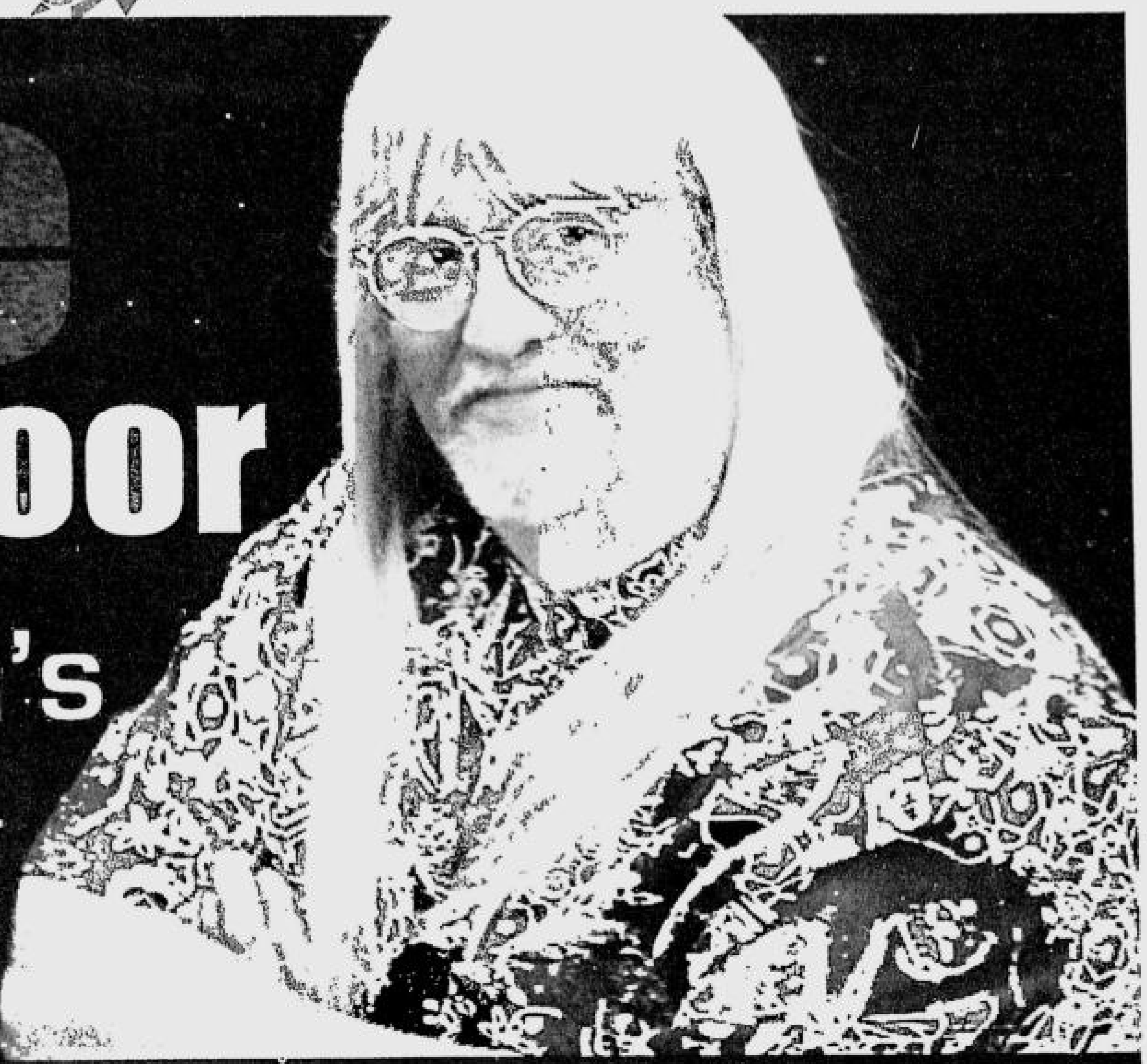
Indie to your door

Many of Peque Gallaga's fans don't know he's "done a lot of stupid things"



By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

HOW IS Peque Gallaga moving through today's world? Well, he's using his experimental energy to charge his voice into overdrive. After five years, the man is back with "Pinoy Blonde," a film that deftly defies categorization. We've seen it—and it is WOW.

In this interview—where our inner fanboy traits lead us to intently listening to his every word, Peque tells us about the "terrible nerves" as opening date runs near: "There might be a revolution around the corner!" He also speaks on topics he would never touch—"I don't wanna do advocacy stuff—social awareness that pushes an agenda."

Talking beyond preprogrammed promotional jargon, he tells us how the film landed in Unitel—"I met Tony (Gloria), and he asked, 'Do you have anything for the cheap?'"

He also talks about swimming upstream and scratching against the grain, creating an experimental installation about three monitors—yes monitors—drinking together and arguing—it was called "Talking Heads sa Beer House."

Others may question the soundness of his mind, but we prefer genius.

Blondes away!

The trailer alone was WOW. And we hope you don't take offense to this, but we were kinda surprised when we saw that you directed the film—we weren't expecting "Oro Plata Mata" Peque Gallaga. What's your opinion on reactions like this?

I'm used to it. Because many people—even my fans—don't know that I've done a lot of stupid things—(*mocks himself*) my fans—anyway, even the people who like my movies don't know that I started off with a ridiculous TV show about this guy who never showed up for his show, so people were always making up for it, and the situations got so ridiculous… it's weird. And for a long time I did a lot of musical and variety shows—it was a lot of absurd and surreal situations, very strange things, very different from "Bubble Gang" or something—but very funny. But that's basically me. As a matter of fact a lot of the first guys that saw "Pinoy Blonde" were my students like, 30 years ago, and they were saying, *"Ayan na naman si Peque, nagpsy-psychedelic!"* So I never change!

Is there a lack of "weird" in the industry now?

Always.

Do we need it?

Well I don't know how "Pinoy Blonde" is going to turn out. What happened with this film is that I said I've had enough of industry pictures. When I do industry pictures, I pride myself in being a professional, and I see what the industry needs—but I maintain a level that I can always be proud of. But at that point, I just didn't want to have any of that.

The ideas in this movie, are they new?

Well, this is a ten-year old script. Actually, I saw "True Romance,"—a script by Quentin Tarantino. And then "Reservoir Dogs" and "Pulp Fiction"—those are the only Tarantino films I like. Anyway, what I like about the guy—that I said that's cool, that's *astig* —is that his characters are so articulate. They talk. They have opinions about everything—they might not be correct, but they all have something to say. I told myself, "I want to do something like this." If you look at the original script of "Pinoy Blonde," you'll see the characters going on and on—and these people are talking, and they're talking shit—and many times they don't know what the heck they're talking about.

So when you write, does it all just come out?

Um, not really. There are a lot of gestations. What happens is I write and I leave it for a long time. I sit down, and I work it out—but when it's really complete, then it just goes.

Do you work better when you're filming your own scripts?

Yeah, much better. It's your story that you're telling.

What's the difficulty of working with other people's scripts?

Many times, you make scripts your own. I won't accept a person's script unless I say, "Hey I wanna say that!" Because that's when the script becomes mine. But I've turned down a lot of scripts. Oh, I've seen a lot of stories where she's the daughter of the President, and she's a radical journalist, and her family's forced out of Malacañang—and I'm like, "So what? There's no way that I'm going to relate to that." And then it's all wrong *pa*—she's an activist but she steals an ashtray from the palace. Corny, you know. Cute. You can even know who they're going to get for it. I just don't do scripts like that.

But a lot of those films come out now. We're so used to Filipino movies like that. Who's fault do you think is it?

Well, it's the producers' fault. They produce the film, they're responsible for it. And all of them have these creative committees. A committee has never decided any of the great works of art. Never. I don't even want to go into art, but nothing great has ever been done by committees.

And they work by general formulas. Like, "You have to satisfy the Aling Bebang factor." So if Aling Bebang isn't gonna like it or undertand it, you basically have nothing. So everyone out there—all the producers, some very famous production outfits, are out there making films for Aling Bebang. The name of the game is just to get Aling Bebang to buy loads of tickets, which apparently she does.

What do you think about piracy?

I have two points about piracy. One is that I don't think we should steal from ourselves—because we are a poor country. But it's because we're a poor country that we are forced to steal. Because if we don't, we won't have Western input—which we must have or else we'll be so left behind—we're gonna end up beating drums in order to communicate.

It costs 20 pesos to buy and burn a CD, right? So why are they charging so much for original DVDs? It's a kind of imperialism that the Western people are forcing on us. It's a way of keeping Third World countries Third World, to keep us in our place. So we must steal. I'm all for Western piracy.

Doesn't piracy create an inclination towards foreign movies—because we're drowning in pirated Western films?

What do they like? Do they like foreign products? Of course not. They like ideas. They're buying the ideas. They're saying, "Oh my god this is such a clever way of doing it—such a fine way of doing it."

I think that our ideas should compete with the world market. We're either as good as New Yorkers or Parisians, or not good at all. But at the same time, they are surrounded with all these inputs, with all this freedom; while we have to go out and kill people. We don't have that freedom and education that they do. So we're forced to steal. We need to be pirates.

Is "Pinoy Blonde" your big comeback, like "This is it!"?

I don't see this as a comeback at all. I know they're selling it as a comeback., "Hey he's back, he's got a movie, etcetera, etcetera." It's a little overwhelming for me. And it's not like I've been gone all these years—I've been doing experimental stuff in Bacolod.

What kind of experimental stuff?

Well I just got awarded in Manila for "new artforms." I worked with a guy named Manny Montelibano, we did an installation. We got these three monitors drinking together, arguing and talking. It's called "Talking Heads sa Birhaus." We got really good actors. We recorded the dialogue, and played them on the monitors. So the monitors are talking to each other, and people looked at it and thought this is a performance—but after a while, you get involved in what these monitors are saying, like you're a part of the conversation. This was shown in Davao, Ilocos, Dagupan—it went around the Philippines.

What makes a film "experimental?"

There are a lot of nonexperimental films out there. People play with camera and call it experimental. Like, the first time I got my Super 8, I shot everything, zoomed in on plants and made the camera fly around—but that's not experimental, it's playing with a camera. A lot of new filmmakers will tell you they're doing experimental—well, you're not. And I don't want to be strict, go ahead and play, just don't call it experimental. You have to know something to do experimental. It's when you ask, "What happens if I don't do this?" You've got an informed theory, and you try it out. So if you don't know anything, you can't experiment yet.

Is there's hope for Filipino films?

Oh you bet. I think the hope is in the young.

How important are efforts like Cinemalaya?

I think all of this is important, Cinemalaya, Unitel—I think Tony Gloria is the new wave but he needs a big super hit. 'Cause the rest of the people see in terms of pesos and centavos—if you don't have a hit, you're a crazy idealist.

The thing about Cinemalaya is it would be amazing if they continue doing things. Cinemalaya is giving filmmakers a chance at their first film without selling their souls. At the same time they get tested on making films within budget, and on time. I was pissed, actually, when they decided to extend the deadline. I mean, we should see which of them can cope with demands… you can't be an artist and do a film for seven years—I know some do—but that's not the point.

What happens if all of this doesn't work?

If Cinemalaya doesn't work and Unitel doesn't work, we're going to keep doing films for Aling Bebang. And the industry's coming down to like, 3 movies a year…

Aling Bebang might not come and see "Pinoy Blonde"—but is there a market for these brave, new films?

Look what happened to the Japanese "Ring." A partner of mine a long time ago calls me up and says 'hey let's watch this movie.' We haven't seen a movie together in 30 years. So we go to Greenbelt—it's showing in one theater. We lined up, and we were lucky we got in, people were sitting on the floor. It was a small theater, it reminded us of the late 60s film society called Salaguinto. We'd go to this tiny theatre in Ayala—75 seats—and watch. So we saw the movie and talked about it after, "I liked this," or "I didn't like this."

Anyway the point is, after a while, the kind of excitement that one theater started spread out into other theaters—and then they were showing it everywhere. With "Pinoy Blonde," we wanted to do that—the problem is that it gets stolen if you show it in one theater only. The theater owners themselves won't do this. They put it out fast and wide as they can—'cause in the end, they end up losing.

Are you the type of director who comes on set knowing what to do, with everything storyboarded and stuff?

Of course. I do my homework. It's homework. So many directors don't do homework; they come in and say, "O, what are we doing today?" Oh, f*** you. Screw you! All these people are counting on you, and you don't prepare?

I storyboard some stuff, some I don't. I definitely have a shot list, and then I feel free to throw it away.

And everyone gets a copy—the cameramen know exactly what's going to be shot, the actors know even how much to memorize. Making a film is really collaborative. People are all together doing work. So I hate these directors who sit down and (*puts his head down and puts his hand on his forehead*). And you ask what he's doing. and someone tells you, "Shh, he's a perfectionist!" He's not a perfectionist, he's f***ing lazy. I do have these days when I say, "People, bear with me, we went this way, but now we got a problem"—but for you not to know what you're going to do that day is really bad.

Talk about Epy, Boy2 and the film.

Oh okay. You have two completely different styles going against each other—Epy's style is theatrical, Boy2's is cinematic. Epy plays a dramatic person, so it works. The thing is, Epy's such a good actor that everything he does comes from a true source. At the same time, Boy2 is all-out in what he does—he throws everything away in every scene, every little movement draws you. So they have two different styles, but they're so bonded that they really work together.

"Pinoy Blonde" is really about movies. It's a movie about movies. I hate to use a big word—I leave that to the critics—but it's a metamovie. Some people have extracted the essence that it's really an argument between Brocka and Bernal, but it's not. It's a movie about movies. It's very exciting. I really like it.

And if you see even just the way Epy and Boy 2 work, you'll see how collaborative the film is. The director is not the fountain from which everything comes from. I set it up; the initial impetus comes from the director, but everyone contributes what he or she is best at. The director becomes the sculptor—you know, "This is okay," or, "This is too much,"—but everyone is a contributor. And I'm not giving a little Boy Scout's speech—"We're all together!"

Were you involved in things like editing…?

The first two weeks I didn't show up—I let the editor, Mike de Castro, go where he wanted to go. But I had my conceptions about where I thought the film was headed. When I finally went to see what had been finished, I went, "Oh my God, you went there—when I was planning to go here!" But I kept quiet, and I watched it a second time, and I went, "Ok, this is where we're going."

So Mike de Castro is super major contributor to the making of this movie. It's not first time I've dealt with split screen, and stuff. But he used in a way that it became essence of storytelling in this movie.

Do you get nervous before premiers?

Oh terrible—this is the part I hate most. And there might be a revolution around the corner, so we don't know if the film's going to open… so what are you going to do?

Superfriends goes ILLEGALY BLONDE

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Patricia Arenas
My Blonde Name: Sophie
Blondes are: sassy and not skanky!
If I was a real blonde: I'd be on Baywatch
My favorite blonde is: Kate Moss

E-MAIL ME AT: ROSE_GREGORIO@YAHOO.COM

Rose Gregorio
My Blonde Name: Peggy Sue Louisiana
Blondes are: born for porn
If I was a real blonde: I'd definitely have more fun
My favorite blonde is: Gwen Stefani

E-MAIL ME AT: KHMYGWAPING@YAHOO.COM

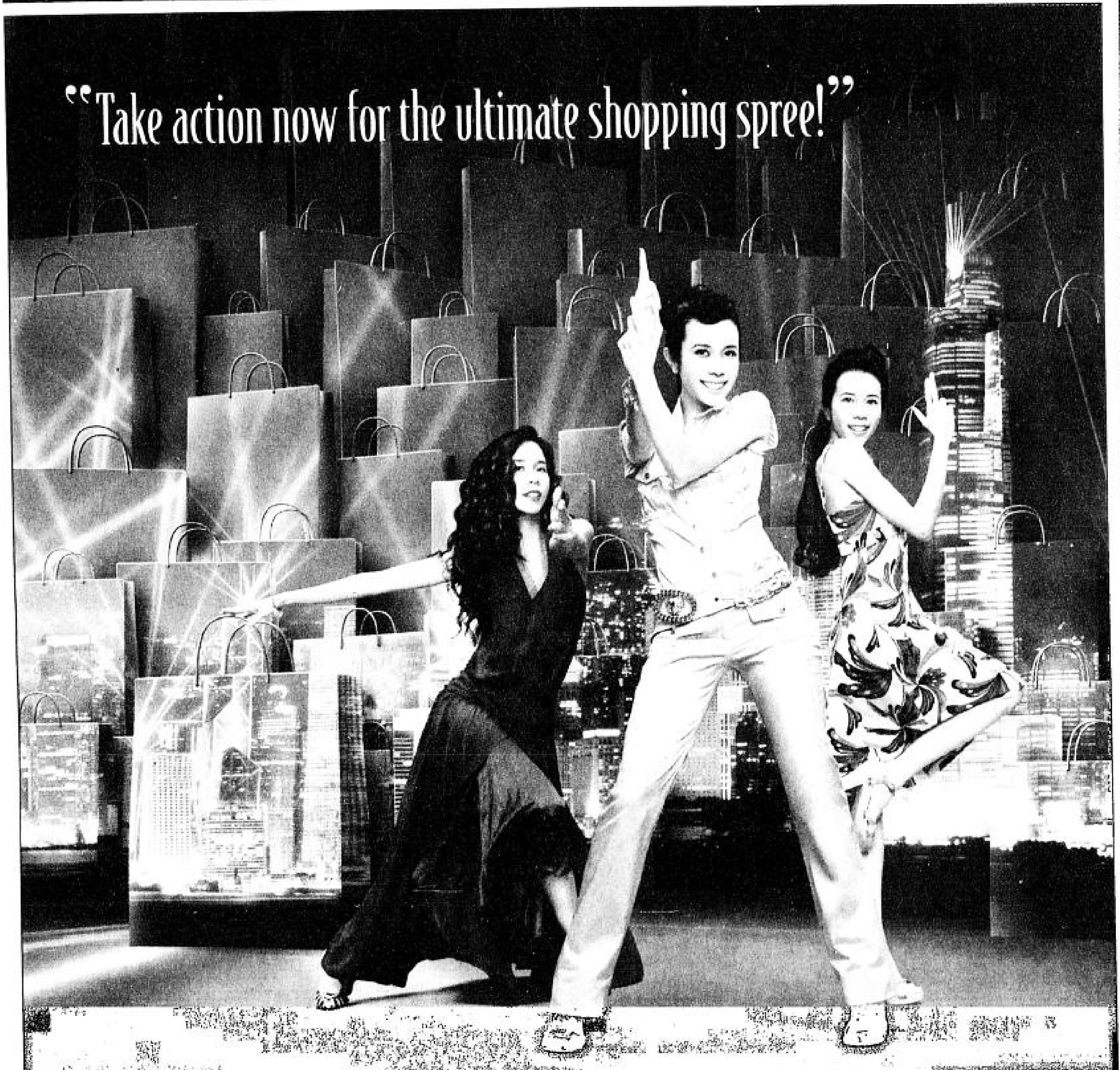
Kiel Villamin
My Blonde Name: Sammy Hagard
Blondes are: the dominant race and not just a pretty face
If I was a real blonde: I would be in a rock band like Van Halen
My favorite blonde is: Alicia Silverstone

E-MAIL ME AT: IZSHA@YAHOO.COM

Issa Domingo
My Blonde Name: Tellulah
Blondes are: pretty and not witty
If I was a real blonde: I'd grow my hair really long and it would be the center of the world
My favorite blonde is: Alicia Silverstone

E-MAIL ME AT: MONIX@ATENISTA.NET

Monix Deona
My Blonde Name: Sylvia Platina
Blondes are: Living rays of sunshine
If I was a real blonde: I'd wear pink all the time
My favorite blonde is: Kate Hudson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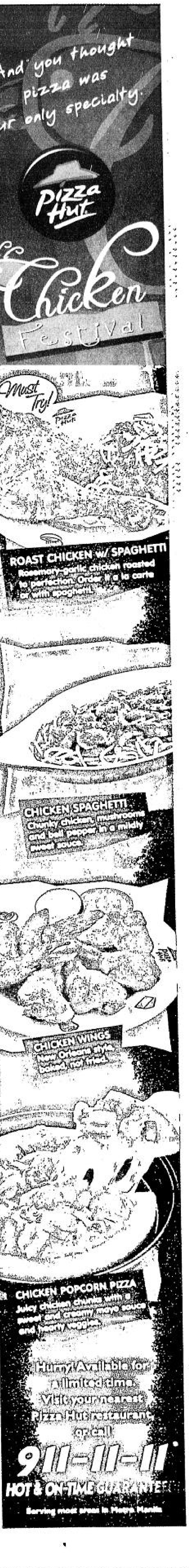

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Text by David Milan
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Fidel Pamintuan
My Blonde Name: Bambino
Blondes are: genetic aberrations
If I was a real blonde: I'd use it as an excuse for flunking my classes
My favorite blonde is: Fabio!

E-MAIL ME AT OWELWEL2@YAHOO.COM

Owel Alvero
My Blonde Name: Wild Wild Owel
Blondes are: cool and not fools
If I was a real blonde: I'll dye myself
My favorite blonde is: Thurston Moore

E-MAIL ME AT TRISHI387@YAHOO.COM

Helga Weber
My Blonde Name: Love, Kisses and Amber
Blondes are: Uhm... "that's hot"
If I was a real blonde; I'd have better hair
My favorite blonde is: Taylor Hanson

E-MAIL ME AT CANDICEANNELIM@GMAIL.COM

Candice Lim
My Blonde Name: Ashley
Blondes are: yellow and not blue
If I was a real blonde: I'd look like someone from Aegis!?
My favorite blonde is: Gwen Stefani

E-MAIL ME AT ICHA_KYUT@YAHOO.COM

Melissa Ursua
My Blonde Name: Cookie-Cutter
Blondes are: blank, blank, and blank
If I was a real blonde: I would probably be fake
My favorite blonde is: Me, Myself, and I

E-MAIL ME AT RAGTAGPANDA@LYCOS.COM

Daniel Darwin
My Blonde Name: Dustbunny
Blondes are: pandas and not penguins
If I was a real blonde: I'd touch myself 24/7
My favorite blonde is: Uma Thurman

E-MAIL ME AT MYNAMEISNOTPHILLIP@GMAIL.COM

Phil Dy
My Blonde Name: Johann Sebastian
Blondes are: Yes and not No
If I was a real blonde: I'd like totally start a glam rock band
My favorite blonde is: Tim Yap! Yaparazzi y'all!

E-MAIL ME AT FRANCE_RUIZ@YAHOO.COM

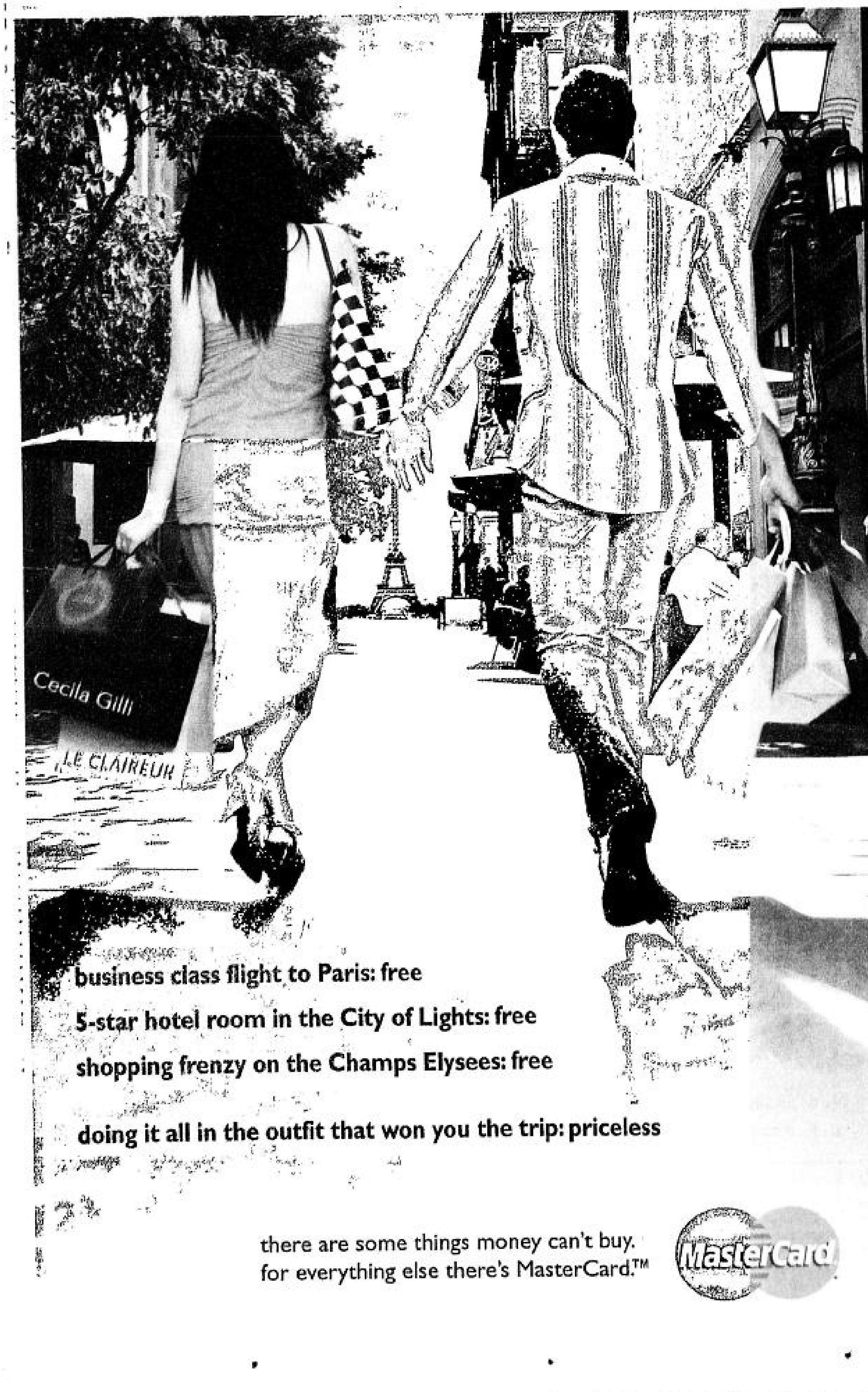
France Ruiz
My Blonde Name: Chloé
Blondes are: happy and not flabby
If I was a real blonde: like duh!?... It's good to be!
My favorite blonde is: Barbie

E-MAIL ME AT MARIANOY_H@YAHOO.COM

Marian Hernandez
My Blonde Name: Hello Bebe
Blondes are: Actually not your typical Barbie Doll
If I was a real blonde: I'd live with the fact
My favorite blonde is: Uma Thurman

E-MAIL ME AT MOYCAFE@YAHOO.COM

Jillian Roque
My Blonde Name: Chrissy
Blondes are: out and not in. Black hair rocks!
If I was a real blonde: I'll kick ass
My favorite blonde is: Reese Witherspoon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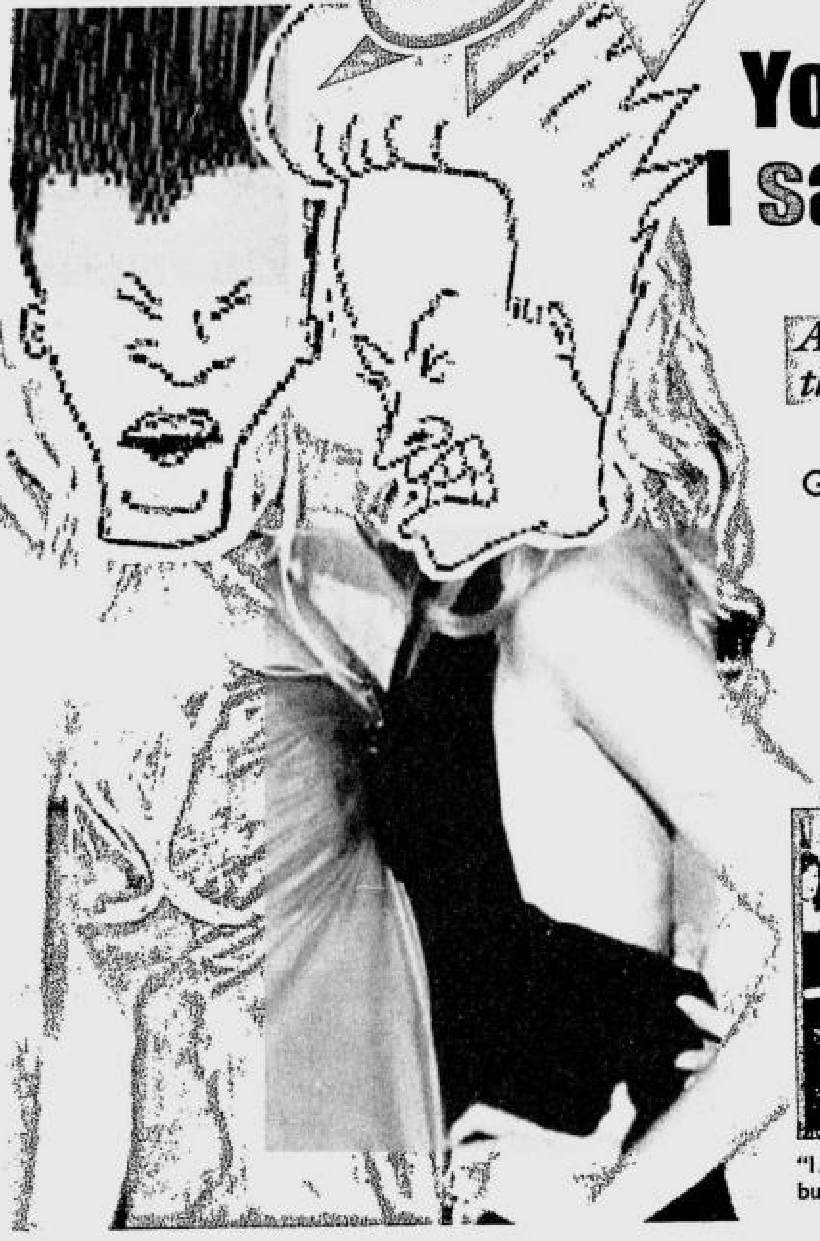

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

They're slim. They're dim. These duos could be one and the same

"I AM the great Cornholio. I need T. P. for my bunghole."

IT WAS the year 1993. Wayne Campbell and Garth Algar of "Wayne's World" summed up sarcasm with one word: "Not!" Jerry Seinfeld's brand of crappy, unfunny comedy was hardly the phenomenon it was bound to be. The flannel flag of grunge flew freakishly high at this time as superwaif Kate Moss inherited the catwalk. On a related note, the concept of bling wasn't even a zygote in the womb of pop culture, neither was the Cruise-Holmes union of exasperation. What can I say? We were less evolved back then.

It was also in 1993 when two imbecilic high school kids made their dent on the ever-expanding television horizon. Beavis and Butt-head were two low-life adolescents who headlined their own MTV show, finding their core audience among those in their twenties and pulling in the highest ratings for the cable network during the era.

Created by Mike Judge, the crude "Beavis and Butt-head" presented the stupidity of male metalheads who watched way too much TV. The 30-minute show divided the critics, with a few calling it "daring" and the rest dubbing it a "Sesame Street for psychopaths."

The latter tag, though rather melodramatic, was nonetheless controversial. In October of that same year, a two-year-old Ohio girl was killed in a fire lit by her five-year-old brother. The children's mother claimed that her son was inspired by the pyromania of the then-Ebert and Roeper of music video, yup, Beavis and Butt-head. Whether the dumb comedy had a hand in the child's violent act or not, MTV got rid of all references to fire and moved "Beavis and Butt-head" to the 10:30 to 11:30 p.m. slot.

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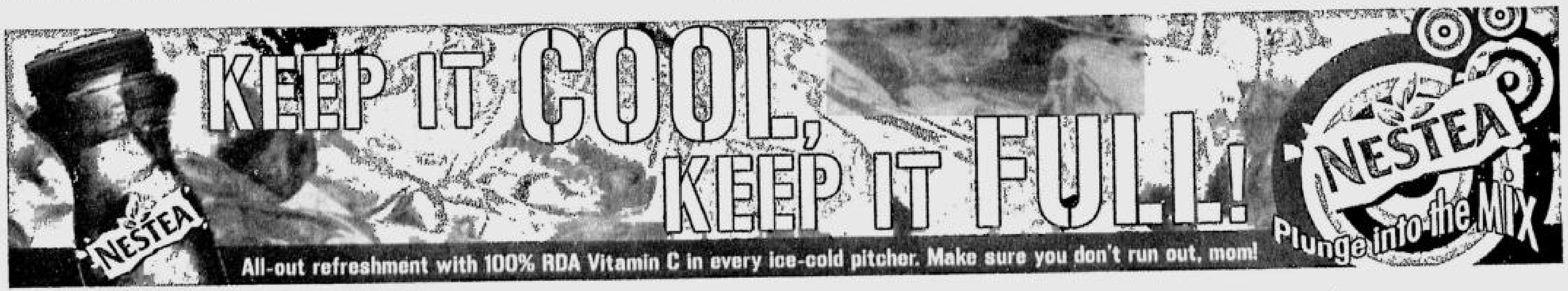
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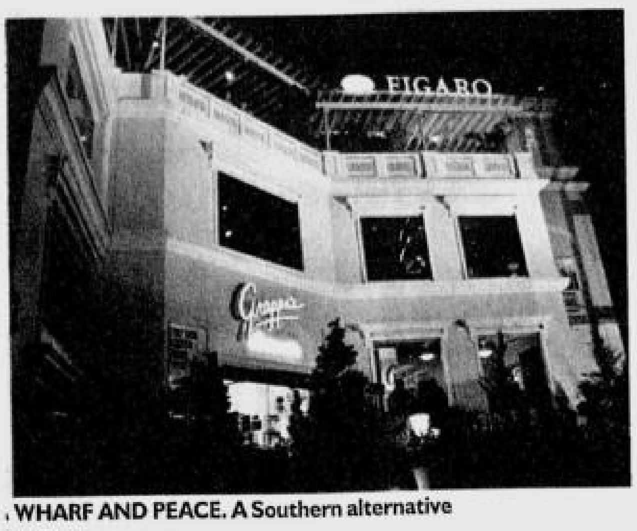


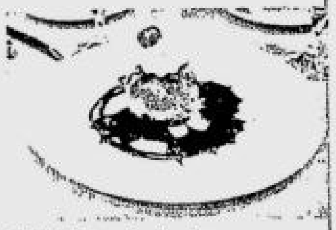
WHARF AND PEACE. A Southern alternative

Hanging out and loading up in The Wharf

By James Gabrillo

A SPOT for Southerners craving to kick back, fuse and have an amazing time—that's The Wharf, a lifestyle complex set against the scenic backdrop of Laguna Bay, slowly gaining a crowd 'cause of its cool breeze, striking view and rockin' architectural façade.

One of the main drawers in The Wharf is Grappa's Ristorante, an Italian restaurant tripped by venerators of Italian cuisine. Regulars can be found enjoying a tall frosty glass of exceptional Czech beer or any of their fine wines at the promenade where the bay breeze meets the moonlit sky.



SWEET tooth of mine

The Wharf is particularly special because it is bordered by a creditable set of themed communities of property developer Brittany Corp. Most notable is La Posada, Brittany Bay's postcard pretty neighborhood. Motivated by San Francisco's celebrated neo-Victorian homes, its Duettos and Quadrilles carry on enthralling visitors and homeowners alike.

Dencio's Grill and Figaro Coffee Shop are also found in The Wharf, located along the East Service Road in Sucat.

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How to deal with

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

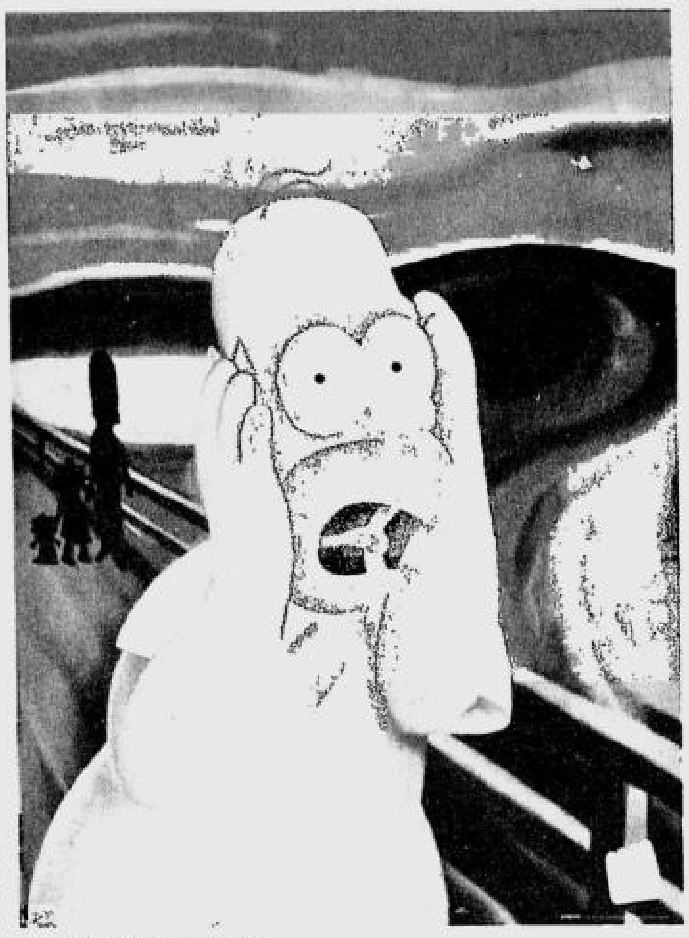
Real-life, easy solutions to remedy that allergic reaction to anything cut

I SHOULD have heeded all the signs.

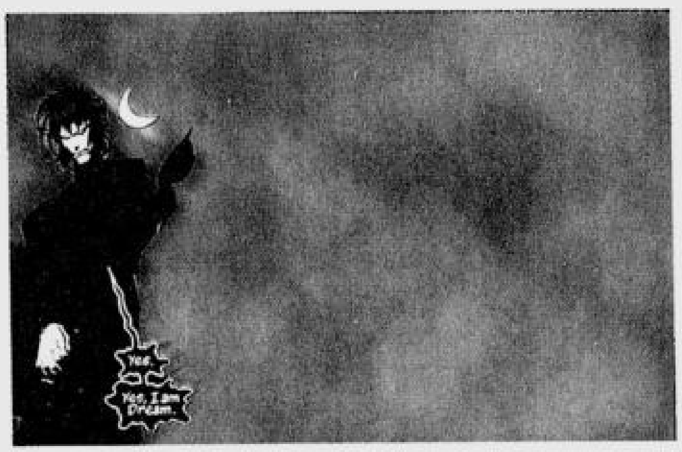
First, it was the sudden urge to strangle a bunny when I encountered a peppy, wide-eyed girl with nary a dead hair strand in sight, who attempted to be cerebral by quoting words of "wisdom" from Paolo Coelho. Then came my unheralded, snappish comments to my eternal sunshiny crew who was innocently enough discussing the whole Tom-Katie affair. Then came the week-long whim of locking myself indoors, digging up old Morrissey and Dead Can Dance records to provide the right audio peg for my mood, as I dusted off my journal to complain about everything from the lunacy of local politics, to Tom Cruise's nauseating publicity stunts, to the alarming increase of Kris Aquino billboards on Edsa. When I started trading in my usual bright threads for anything within the color chart of black, it then hit me—dear God, I'm having an angst attack! Now hand me that cup of black coffee!

How very early nineties retro, this whole concept of meaninglessness and self-loathing that I thought only happened to turtleneck-wearing beatniks, philosophy majors, fading rock stars, acid washed-out lifestyle journalists and the whole cast of "Reality Bites." To be technical about it, "angst" is a German word that cross breeds anxiety and anguish. Not surprisingly, it's a term used in Existentialism that expresses the dread reality that the future is an unknown void. It's an acute but unspecific feeling of distress; usually reserved for an anxiety about the world or about personal freedom. To oversimplify it in my terms, angst is an allergic reaction to anything cute. (Tim Burton marathon, anyone?)

"Unspecific feeling" could not be more specific. The worst part about all this is that I had nothing concrete to blame. Not any planet being in retrograde nor Saturn returning into some orbit in the universe as my constellation-watching, neo-hippie friends would be quick to assume. Then again, I had everything to blame. The government? The blah weather? Hormones? The unacceptable amount of time being away from the ocean? Sam Oh? Nothing? Okay, nothing, then. So after a brief period of self-chiding for being so silly (and so 1990s-melodramatic), I decided to self-medicate by facing this new weird order head on and, well, dwelling in it. Yes, mucking in the melodrama. Hopefully, the sheer exaggeration would turn me off and I'd be back to normal vibrating frequencies in no time. Lo and behold, what did I discover? That all this could actually be... fun. Could this be a neo-angst of some sort? A kind that's so silly that it's actually a caricature of itself?



DOH! The '90s are back!



BROODING, much? The poster boy for eternal angst, Dream of the Endless

A quick how-to on surviving a sudden, neo-angst attack:

1. Soundtrack it.

What better way to wallow in self-imagined woe than providing a soundtrack to go with your mood? For lack of creativity, any band with the words "dead" or "kill" or all the synonyms falling under the general category would suffice, thus explaining Death Cab for Cutie, Delerium and The Killers on repeat mode. After a while, that drowning sensation while lying face up on the bed will actually start to feel like an emotional panacea. It's probably because you start feeling a sense of camaraderie with all those other depressed people out there trying to survive a breakup, a quarter life crisis or a *buhaghag* hair day. You are not alone!

2. Start a blog.

I never would have thought that creating a blog that is totally devoid of meaning would actually help get me out of my rut. It really is today's most creative outlet of self-expression, even for the techie-challenged, simple folk like me. Together with a good pal one afternoon, I created a personal headquarters in cyberspace wherein we properly launched the gospel of Durian-ism—that everything stinks. And we actually felt like we achieved something! Even if, well, we didn't.

3. Resort to escapism.

In other words, watch a blasphemous amount of TV. Thank sweet Jesus for cable television, DVD players and window blinds. All of a sudden, your life seems peachy after watching true accounts of genocide as depicted in "Hotel Rwanda." Or one can also resort to media transference. By watching blithe, rich, WASPY kids living in a surfside neighborhood (yup, I'm talking about "The O.C.") for an increased period of time can have a strange effect on oneself. You start to imagine yourself as part of their created world, start adopting their problems, non-problems, astute fashion sense and craving for cream cheese bagels with vodka. And *poof!* Just like that, you've graduated from angst-ridden to

You say 'Paris and Nicole,' I say 'Beavis and Butt-head'

From page D1

Since the subcultural hit series raised the issue of generational preferences, American cultural politics was never the same as well. Beavis and Butt-head's "bad taste" and "offensive language" bothered a lot of educators and concerned parents which, in turn, made the channel-surfing slackers even more appealing to its so-called twentynothing audience.

After four years of stunted adolescence, however, Beavis and Butt-head were killed off in the final episode, #199 "Beavis and Butt-head Are Dead," in November 1997. The prime time void on MTV was then filled, quite ironically, by wry teenage intellectual Daria.

Life of insecurity

Tragically unemployed and without high school diplomas, Beavis and Butt-head spent a huge part of the 90s hustling, just to make ends meet. With only a limited acting repertoire, the double act tried taking their sparkling banter on the road, only to find that their appeal was, indeed, limited to nostalgic Gen Xers and generally uncool oldies like David Letterman.

They even tried out for roles on "Dawson's Creek" (Beavis wanted to be Dawson while Butt-head read for the part of Pacey) as well as a few cheap porn movies in the San Fernando Valley. They were, again, immediately turned away in both instances.

Retreating to their meth lab in the basement to fantasize about making out with a drunken Olsen twin, the two did what they knew best: park in front of the TV and channel-surf. In between infomercials for ProActiv ("Cool!") and the "American Idol" finals ("Sucks!"), Beavis and Butt-head noticed an ad for a new reality series. *"Wanted: Two stick-thin girls who wear shoes made from gold-plated endangered species pelts and complain regularly about the cost of their shopping and cocaine addictions in a stupid yet mildly entertaining way. Please report to Jonathan Murray and Mary-Ellis Bunim."* The show, as it happened, was called "The Simple Life."

Seeing a possible end to a life of insecurity and paralyzing self-doubt, Beavis and Butt-head brought their head shots and actor's reels to the producers in Burbank, California. The lines outside the studio were long and tear gas-worthy.

The twosome elbowed their way past other "The Simple Life" hopefuls—such as Ernie and Bert, Bill and Ted, and Siegfried and Roy—finally securing an audience with Murray and Bunim (the masterminds behind "The Real World" and "Road Rules") who recognized them from the gold-rush MTV days.

Beavis and Butt-head are dead! Or are they?

It was 2003 and they were now squarely in their twenties. See, apart from starring in a lukewarmly-received comeback movie, it was about time Beavis and Butt-head set the world on "Fire! Fire!" again.

True enough, luck was on their side and Beavis and Butt-head were given a second shot at relevance by the Hollywood powers-that-be. To have a lock on ratings, though, the producers decided to cosmetically enhance—okay, sexually realign—the two to resemble the characters they were set to play. So after a few nips and tucks in Costa Rica, Beavis returned as Paris Hilton and Butt-head became her sidekick, Nicole Richie.

With their newly-minted identities, Beavis/Paris and Butt-head/Nicole became everyone's favorite tabloid-bound twosome. On the one hand, Beavis/Paris became known as an airhead heiress, gradually making a name for herself as a model, movie actress and amateur porn princess. He/she is currently recording a dance-pop album with the help of former *NSync member JC Chasez, working on a new film called "National Lampoon's Pledge This!" and playing "hide the weasel" with Greek fiancé Paris Latsis. He/she may look more attractive now than in the past but some old habits still give his/her identity away, such as the use of really, really simple language to describe certain, uh, stuff. Beavis/Paris maintains that the bad press, like, "sucks" and that "people are mean." Spoken like a true blonde.

Meanwhile, Butt-head/Nicole was arrested in Malibu in February 2003 and charged with possession of heroin and driving with a suspended license. After a stint at rehab, he/she is now reportedly in conflict with her DJ fiancé, Adam Goldstein, who is disgusted by her flamboyant wedding plans—including elephant rides, swans, horse-drawn carriages and salsa dancing—and is desperate for a more modest ceremony instead. Lately, Butt-head/Nicole's shadow has been known to darken L.A. hotspots such as the Ivy with new BFF Lindsay Hohan, *er*, Lohan, who some say used to be Archie Andrews from Archie comics.

A case of déjà vu

So, it was in 2003 when two imbecilic celebutantes made their dent on the ever-expanding television horizon. Paris and Nicole were two high-living young adults who headlined their own reality show, finding their core audience among those in their twenties and pulling in high ratings for the FOX network during that year.

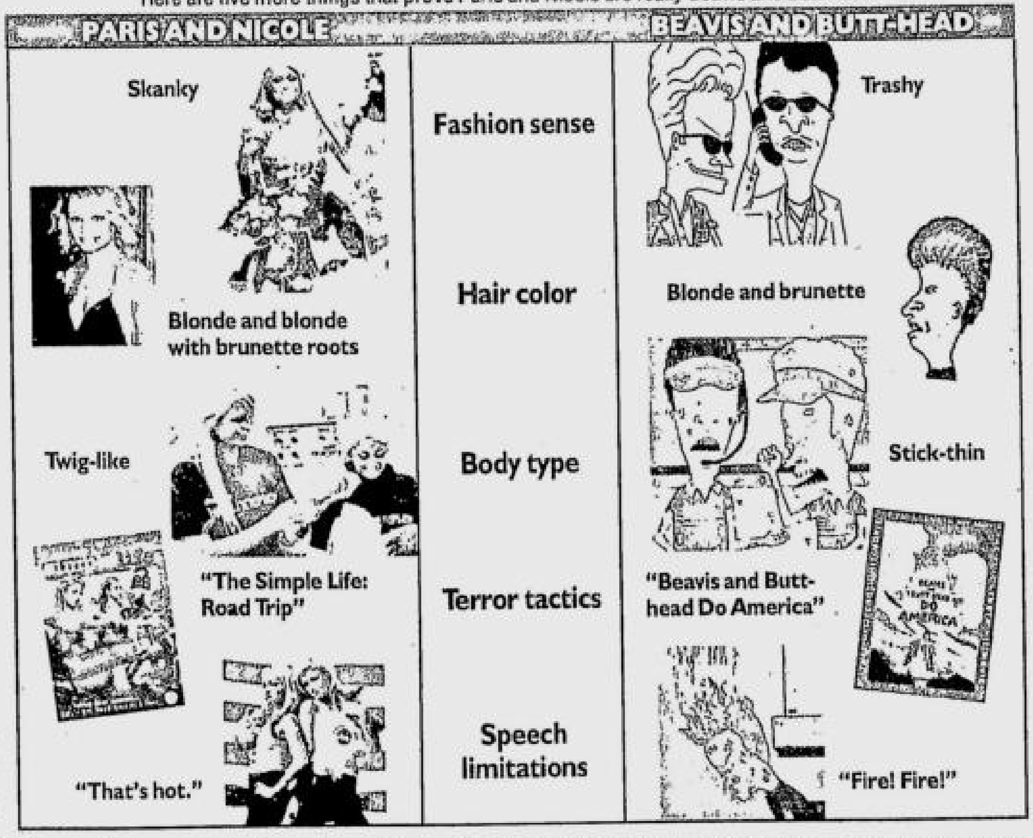
Created by Jonathan Murray and Mary-Ellis Bunim, the crude "The Simple Life" presented the stupidity of female fashionistas who buy way too much couture. The 30-minute show divided the critics, with a few calling it "funny" and the rest dubbing it "Beavis and Butt-head with tits."

The latter tag, though rather melodramatic, was nonetheless effective. In 2004, Barbara Walters picked Paris Hilton as second most fascinating person of the year. Walters' choice could've been inspired by Paris' signature "That's hot," which won a VH1 award for Catchphrase of the Year. Whether the dumb blonde's slogan had a hand in Walters' selection or not, Fox capitalized on this reference to fire and renewed "The Simple Life" for a few more seasons.

Since the mainstream hit series raised the issue of generational preferences, American cultural politics has never been the same as well. Paris and Nicole's "deviant behavior" and "offensive language" bothered a lot of educators and concerned parents which, in turn, made the mischief-causing interns even more appealing to its so-called twentynothing audience.

2003 vs 1993

Is it a mere conspiracy theory or a real-deal invasion of the body snatchers?
Here are five more things that prove Paris and Nicole are really Beavis and Butt-head.



PARIS AND NICOLE		BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD
Skanky	Fashion sense	Trashy
Blonde and blonde with brunette roots	Hair color	Blonde and brunette
Twig-like	Body type	Stick-thin
"The Simple Life: Road Trip"	Terror tactics	"Beavis and Butt-head Do America"
"That's hot."	Speech limitations	"Fire! Fire!"

a [neo] angst attack

delusionary. Californiaaa, here we come!

4. Pick an equally glum partner and practice self-deprecation skills together.

It's the best way to prove that misery loves company. Even if that meant phoning an old friend whom I hadn't seen in years. Even if that meant listening to his sad, saaad song lyrics with related themes such as heartbreak, loss and a pointless existence. (At least he reminded me that Jim Morrison's death anniversary was last Sunday.) My thoughts suddenly shifted to the reason why I hadn't seen that old friend in so many years—I mean, Saddam's company would've been a more pleasurable experience. Some people never change, I thought, and was suddenly grateful that at least I had the capability to move on. And by move on, I mean jumping out of his car window to run.

I would like to think that even the most happy-go-lucky of people get these dreaded attacks, and dealing with it is all character-building. I realized that there may be no one quick, surefire method out of the madness, so until the tide turns, best to ride out the doldrums and actually amuse oneself. Oh, and during this time of existential mucking, stay away from cute, furry creatures. For their safety.

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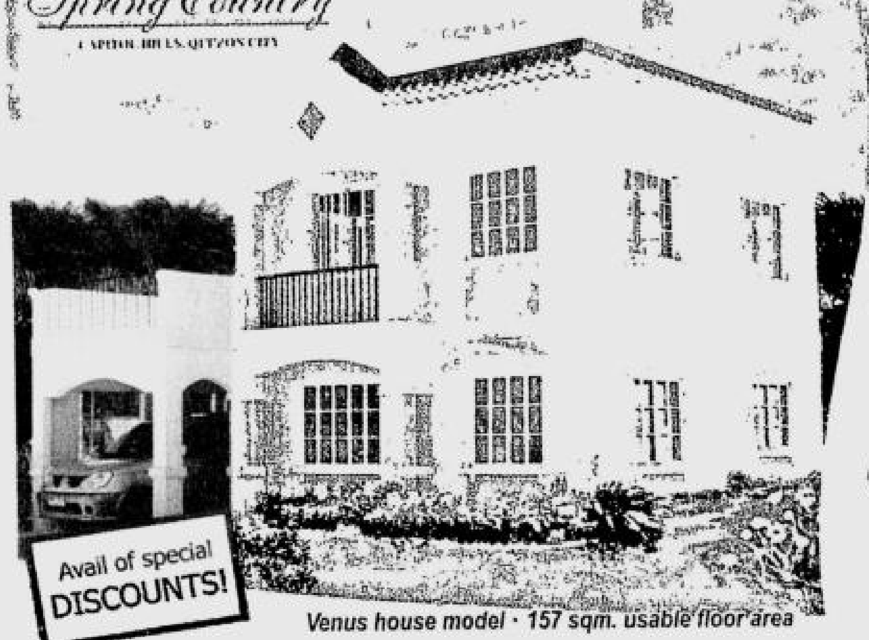

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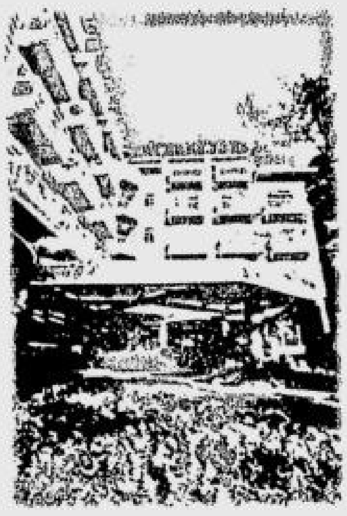

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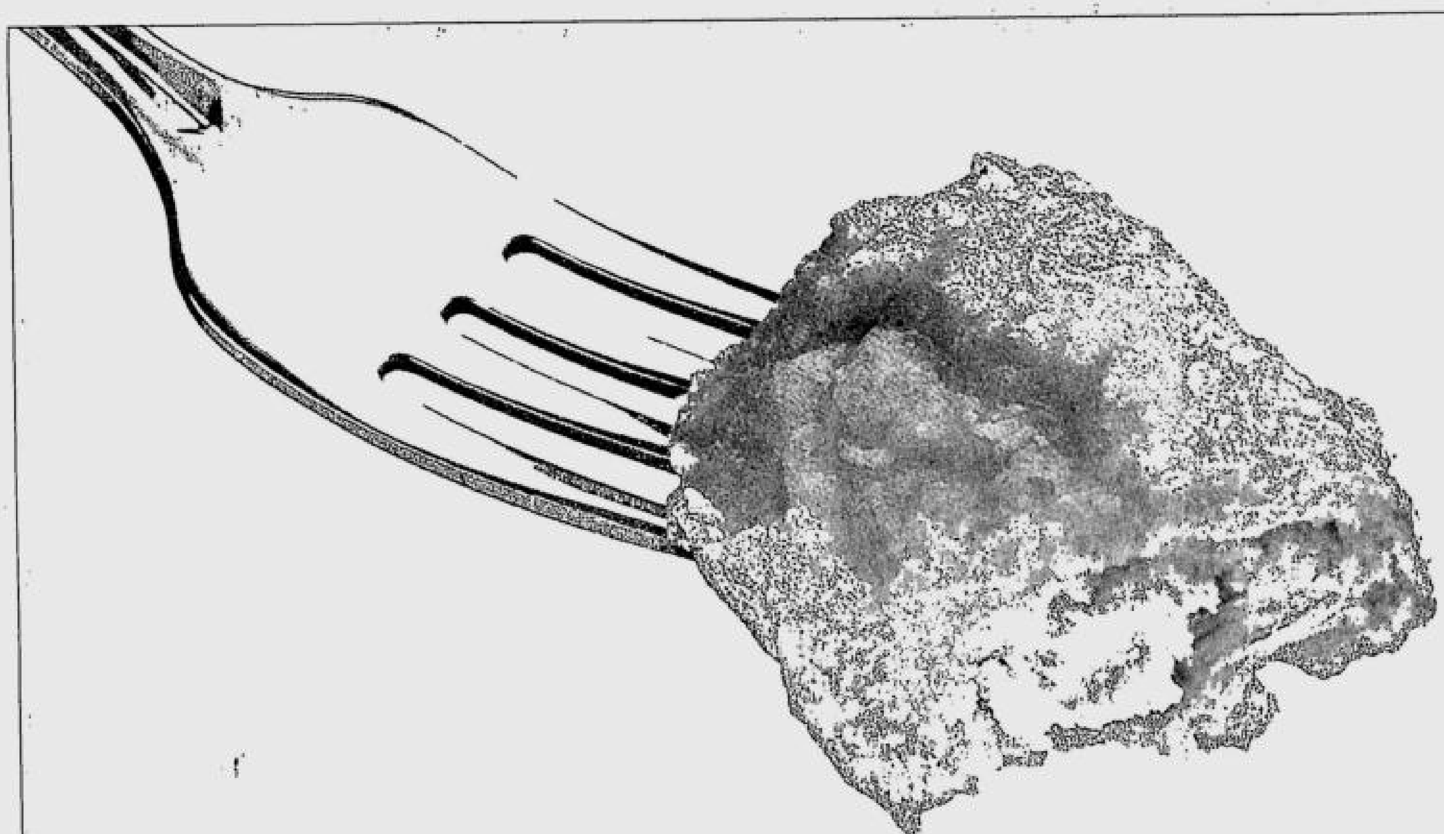

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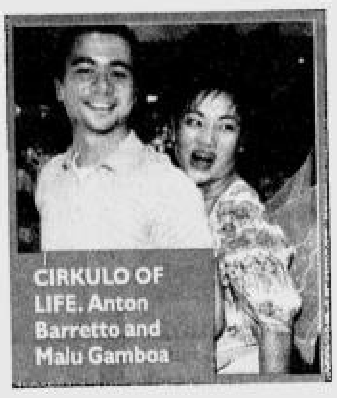
CIRKULO OF LIFE. Anton Barretto and Malu Gamboa

PERFECT MOMENTS. Anna Angara and Rosanne Prieto

FAIRY FREEWAY. [illegible] Gotuaco and Katty Qui

FINE PRINT. Sandy Romualdez and Peachy Prieto

Athena's fairy filled welcome into the Catholic world

Photos by Willy Saw

Tim Yap

TRUST **Tessa** to turn an ordinary baptism into a Midsummer Night's Dream.

Athena Marean Prieto-Valdes was baptized into the Christian world the first day of July with a fairy filled ceremony of Olympic proportions and poetry that would put the Bard to shame.

Santuario de San Antonio's baptismal hall never looked the same with godparents surrounding Athena in full fairy wings, with mom Tessa in full "Belle" (of Beauty and the Beast) regalia, clad in a pink **Rajo Laurel** ball gown that would make you want to sing, "Tale as old as time…"

Not to be outdone, **Annika**, her eldest daughter, wore a mini replica of the gown her mother was wearing, with matching wings that Rajo supplied to all the godparents that attended the christening. **Fr. Tony Rosales** had all the godparents place the sign of the cross to all the godparents before the ceremonies began, and I could have sworn I felt goose bumps the minute I blessed my goddaughter. Nope, I didn't melt in church if that's what you're thinking. I knew this wasn't a simple ceremony of just showing up for an event. Being a godfather is a long-term commitment of being there for your godchild, and I relish the fact that even when Athena was but a zygote inside Tessa's uterus, that I felt responsible for her well being, being the town crier of every development in her life—from her not-so-immaculate conception to her 05-05-05 birth.

Every moment in her life I shall be able to document—every first in her life I want to be able to witness. I shall be there in her growing years, seeing each step that she makes, with the guidance of her parents **Dennis** and Tessa. I therefore declare Athena as the youngest "it" girl in the country today—beat that!

Who knows, 18 years from now I might even take her to her first dance club (with her parent's permission, of course). But more than the usual indulgence, I want to be able to instill in her the wisdom that I've learned from my elders. When she becomes a young adult I shall still be alive and kicking (hopefully) and I want to be able to bond with her as if we were just siblings.

That afternoon, fairy godparents (my new *compadres* and *kumares*, from **Kris Aquino** to **Ben Chan**, from **Virgie Ramos** to **Paolo Prieto**) each had their moment to bless the child. After the priest gave his blessing, Rajo went up to her to swathe her in a pink jewel encrusted apron. Well, she is not Tessa's daughter for nothing.

Amidst it all she was well behaved in daddy Dennis' (incidentally, it was also Dennis' birthday) arms, only eliciting a quiet sob when the holy water touched her forehead. Somehow, I like baptisms more than weddings. With couples breaking up here and there (okay, let's not go there), there is just so much more hope with the entry of a child into the Christ-centered life—one that is full of love.

And as Shakespeare's lovelorn Helena whispered, I echo the same to my fair godchild. "Love can transpose to form and digni ty. Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind; And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind. Nor hath love's mind of any judgment taste; Wings and no eyes figure unheedy haste: And therefore is love said to be a child, Because in choice he is so oft beguil'd."

DADDY Dennis Valdes

BABY BONDING. Luca Romualdez says hello to Athena

MR. [illegible] Athena's big brother Tyrone Valdes

KISS ME BABY ONE MORE TIME. Tessa with her new love, Athena

MADE IN GREECE. Athena in her Rajo Laurel finery with her godmothers

THREE GENERATIONS. Lola, mommy and baby Athena

HEY MOMMA. Kara Delgado and mom Peachy Prieto with Kai Yulo and Uma Araneta

HAPPY KITTY. Happy David and Kate Torralba

THREE wishes for my Super godchild

FORBES BY NIGHT. Annika and her posse

SMARTEST [illegible]

FAIRY GODFATHERS. Rafa Valdes, Rajo Laurel and Paolo Prieto

LOVE KO RADIO. Bobet and Ruthy Vera with Cindy and Kenneth Yang

FAIR LADIES. Nanette de Leon and Crickette Tantoco

ENCHANTED KINGDOM. Marilou Martinez, Virgie Ramos, Albert Alexander and Liezel Martinez

Wishes

Fairy Ninang Tara Villareal:
May all things good and beautiful be yours to hold and experience.
May you be blessed with the love of family and true friends.
May the world you awaken to prove to be truly wonderful and may the good Lord be gracious unto you, all the days of your life.

Fairy Ninang Leica Carpo:
I hope for the gifts of grace under pressure, The opportunity to love and be loved a lifetime,
The beauty to launch a thousand ships,
The wisdom to turn straw into gold,
And the courage to go for her dreams.

Fairy Ninang Kris Aquino:
Jeremiah 29:11 "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."
Your mom helped enrich my faith by praying with me regularly in Baclaran when I needed it most. May you always be filled with God's grace and abundant love.

Fairy Ninang Virgie Ramos:
Hello… Athena! May you have the wisdom of your namesake, the one-of-a-kindness of your mom and the Olympian inner strength of your dad.

Fairy Ninang Alexi Prieto:
As the years quickly pass by, and Athena grows into an adult before we know it, I wish to her to have success in everything she does. In kindergarten, may she have success with friends, whether it's keeping old ones or making new. As she begins elementary, may she have success with classes from earning good grades to understanding homework. In high school, may she have success in making good decisions. In adulthood, may she have success with her job and when she becomes a parent, may she have success with raising her kids just as her parents has raised her.
All the best for Athena!

Fairy Ninong Tim Yap:
Like her namesake, I wish you the balance of strength and compassion, and the power of the mind, for you to be more than equipped to outlast all that will come your way.
May you lead the way for a new generation of achievers… you will make your parents proud.
Style and beauty will be inherit in you already so no need to wish for that.
Plus your ninongs are here, every step of the way… to make sure each step is done in SUPER style.

Fairy Ninong Rafa Valdes:
I wish for you only the very best in life. May you achieve all your goals, overcome hardships in life. And may all your wishes come true.

Fairy Ninong Rajo Laurel:
I wish her long legs and height… seriously, I wish her good health and a deep and burning passion for life, both of which will ultimately lead her to great heights.

Fairy Ninong Ben Chan:
All I wish for Athena is for this namesake Goddess to grow up to become the best in whatever profession she indulges herself in. May she inherit all the positive virtues and attributes of her well-loved parents. Put God above everything… be guided by the Holy Spirit and learn to love the way everybody loves you.

Fairy Ninong Paolo Prieto:
I wish her posh gifts and great times with her ninongs and ninangs.
If you need any advice on love, boys and choosing the right one, I will be around to assist. To make it simple, choose someone just like your ninong.

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